



# Ghanshyam Bal Kendra

શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ મંદિર  
વિલ્સડન  
ગુજરાતી શાળા



Shree Swaminarayan Temple  
Willesden  
Gujarati School





જનમ્યા કૌશલ દેશ વેશ બટુનો, લઈ તીર્થમાંહી ફર્યા  
રામાનંદ મળ્યા સ્વધર્મ ચલવ્યો, યજ્ઞાદિ મોટા કર્યા  
મોટા ધામ રચ્યા રચ્યા ગઢપુરે, બે દેશ ગાદી કરી  
ગંતરધ્યાન થયા લીલા હરિનામી, સંક્ષેપમાં ઉચરી.



ટ્રસ્ટ રજી. નાં. A ૨૩ કચ્છ.

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# SHREE SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE

SWAMINARAYAN ROAD. BHUJ (KUTCH) 370001

卐 શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ મંદિર ભુજ - કચ્છ. 卐

તારીખ

DATE ૧-૮-૦૮

ભા.પ-૮-૨૦૦૮

શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ મંદિર

મોકુલનાર શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ

લંડન વિલ્સન લેનના

મંદિર ભુજ-કચ્છના સ. મહેલ

પ્રમુખશ્રી-મંત્રીશ્રી-પ્રજાનયીશ્રી

સ્વામી પુરાણ દર્શનદેન દાસજી

કાર્યવાહક કમિટીના સભ્યો પ્રતિ.

વિષય:- ગુજરાતી પાઠ્ય પુસ્તકો દોષાવવા માટે

આશિર્વાદ પત્ર:

આપણા શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ મંદિર લંડન વિલ્સન લેન તરફથી ગુજરાતી શાળામાં અભ્યાસ માટે પાઠ્ય પુસ્તકોમાં થોડો સુધારો કરી ફરીવાર નવાં દોષાવવાનો વિચાર કરેલો છે. તે બહુજ આનંદના લાભ છે. કારણકે આપણેજે આપણા ભાષા ઉપર લજ્જ નહિ થાય એ તો આપણા ભાષા અદૃશ્ય થઈ જશે. માટે તમોજે આપણા ગુજરાતી ભાષા રક્ષાવી રાખવા ને વિચાર કર્યો છે. તે બહુજ ઉત્તમ વિચાર છે. અમો તમોને રૂડા આશિર્વાદ આપાએ દાએ કે આપણા મંદિર તરફથી પ્રસિદ્ધ થયેલ ગુજરાતી પાઠ્ય પુસ્તકો શ્રી નરનારાયણ દેવ ગાદીનાં મંદિરો યુ.કે.-અમેરિકા-ઓસ્ટ્રેલિયા-ન્યુઝીલેન્ડ-કેન્યા-આદી દેશોમાં આવેલાં છે. અને એ બધા મંદિરોમાં ગુજરાતી શાળાઓ ચાલે છે. તેમાં એ પુસ્તકો વિદ્યાર્થી બાળકોને બહુજ ઉપયોગી થશે. માટે દરેક મંદિરના કાર્ય કર્તાઓને અમારું ખાસ સુચન છે કે આ પુસ્તકો તમારી ગુજરાતી શાળામાં અવશ્ય વસાવશો. એજ અભ્યર્થના-

ભી. મહેલ સ્વામી પુરાણ દર્શનદેન દાસજીના સપ્રેમ શુભ આશિર્વાદ સહ જય શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ લોચશોબુ

## પ્રસ્તાવના

શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ મંદિર (વિલ્ડસન) ગુજરાતી શાળાની સ્થાપના ઇ. સ. ૧૯૭૭માં કરવામાં આવી હતી. શાળામાં ભાઈ-બહેનો શિક્ષકો તરીકે વિના મૂલ્યે સેવા આપે છે. વિદ્યાર્થીઓને નોટબુક, પેન, પાઠ્યપુસ્તક વગેરે જરૂરી વસ્તુઓ વિના મૂલ્યે આપવામાં આવે છે. વિદ્યાર્થીઓ પાસેથી કોઈપણ જાતની ફી લેવામાં આવતી નથી. G.C.S.E.ની પરીક્ષાની ફી પણ વિદ્યાર્થીઓ પાસેથી લેવામાં આવતી નથી. ઇ.સ. ૧૯૯૫ માં મંદિરની શાળાને G.C.S.E.ના Examination Centre માટેની માન્યતા મળી હતી. ત્યારથી ગુજરાતી G.C.S.E ની પરીક્ષા આપણી ગુજરાતી શાળામાં લેવામાં આવે છે. શરૂઆતમાં શાળાના પાઠ્યપુસ્તક ભારતથી મંગાવવામાં આવતાં. પરંતુ સમય જતાં નવી પેઢીના બાળકોને તે પાઠ્યપુસ્તકો અનુકૂળ ન પડતાં શિક્ષણ કમિટિએ ઇ.સ. ૧૯૯૫ માં આપણા પોતાના પાઠ્યપુસ્તક તૈયાર કરવાનું નક્કી કર્યું.

શિક્ષકો અને વિદ્યાર્થીઓની સહિયારી મહેનત બાદ સાત પુસ્તકોના સેટની પહેલી આવૃત્તિનું વિમોચન ઇ.સ. ૧૯૯૭માં શ્રી નરનારાયણદેવ ગાદીના આચાર્ય શ્રી તેજેન્દ્રપ્રસાદજી મહારાજના વરદ્ હસ્તે કરવામાં આવ્યું હતું.

ગુજરાતી શાળામાં દાખલ થઈ શકે તેથી નાની ઉંમરના બાળકોને પણ સંપ્રદાયના સંસ્કાર મળે એવા ઉમદા આશયથી ઇ. સ. ૨૦૦૪માં શ્રી ઘનશ્યામ બાળ સંસ્કાર કેન્દ્રની સ્થાપના કરવામાં આવી. નાના બાળકો તથા તેમના માવિત્રોને ઉપયોગી થાય તેવા પાઠ્યપુસ્તકની પ્રથમ આવૃત્તિનું શ્રી નરનારાયણ ગાદીના તત્કાલિન ભાવિ આચાર્ય લાલજી શ્રી કૌશલેન્દ્રપ્રસાદજી મહારાજના શુભ હસ્તે ૨૭/૦૮/૨૦૦૫ના રોજ વિમોચન કરવામાં આવ્યું હતું. સુધારા અને વધારા સાથે આ નવી આવૃત્તિ પ્રકાશિત કરતાં આનંદ અનુભવીએ છીએ.

અમારી આશા છે કે આ પાઠ્યપુસ્તકો આપણા બાળકોને ગુજરાતી ભાષા તેમજ ધાર્મિક જ્ઞાન મેળવવામાં ઉપયોગી થશે.

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સર્વ હક્ક પ્રકાશકને સ્વાધિન.

આ પુસ્તકો ઉપરોક્ત સ્થળેથી પકતર કિમતે મળી શકે છે. માટે નૈતિક મૂલ્યો જાળવવા આ પુસ્તકોની ફોટોકોપી કરશો નહીં.

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## Shree Ghanshyam Bal Sanskar Kendra

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## NARNARAYAN DEV



શ્રી નારાયણ ભગવાન  
Shree Narayan Bhagwan

શ્રી નર ભગવાન  
Shree Nar Bhagwan



## SHREE SAHAJANAND SWAMI





## RADHA KRISHNA HARIKRISHNA MAHARAJ



શ્રી હરિકૃષ્ણ મહારાજ  
Shri HariKrishna Maharaj

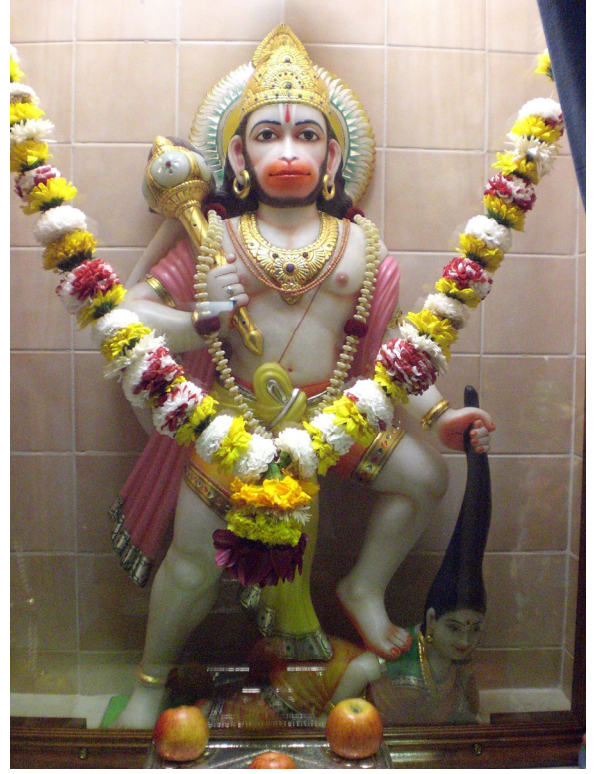
શ્રી કૃષ્ણ ભગવાન  
Shri Krishna Bhagwan

શ્રી રાધિકાજી  
Shree Radhikaji





ગણપતિ  
Ganapati



હનુમાનજી  
Hanumanji



નીલકંઠ વર્ણી  
Nilkanth Varni



શીવ પાર્વતી  
Shiv Parvati



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## સ્તુતિ - STUTI

જનમ્યા કૌશલ દેશ વેશ બટુનો, લઈ તીર્થ માંહી ફર્યા  
રામાનંદ મળ્યા સ્વધર્મ ચલવ્યો, યજ્ઞાદિ મોટા કર્યા

**Janmya Kaushal desh vesh batuno, lai tirtha mahi farya,  
Ramanand malya swadharma chalavyo, yagnadi motaa karya**

Born in the region of Kaushal, He travelled the places of pilgrimage dressed as a young celibate.  
He met Ramanand Swami and a true religion was established, and he performed many big yagnas

મોટા ધામ રચ્યા રહ્યા ગઢપુરે, બે દેશ ગાદી કરી,  
અંતરધ્યાન થયા લીલા હરી તણી, સંક્ષેપમાં ઉચ્ચરી

**Mota dhaam rachya rahya Gadhpure, be desh gadi kari  
Antardhyan thaya lila Hari tani, shakshepma uchari**

You made big temples and lived in Gadhpur. You established two Gadis; Ahmadabad and Vadtal  
Thus, told the deeds or feats of Hari, who went from this world to go back to Akshardham

જે ઉત્પત્તિ તથા સ્થિતિ લય કરે, વેદો સ્તુતિ ઉચ્ચરે  
જેના રોમ સુછીદ્રમાં અણુ સમાન, બ્રહ્માંડ કોટી ફરે

**Je Uttpatti tathaa sthithi laya karey, vedo stuti uchare  
Jena roma suchhindrama annusaman, Brahmand koti farey**

He who created, maintains and destroys the entire cosmic creation, He who is glorified by the vedas  
In His one pore live millions of universes like atoms

માયા કાલ રવિ શશી સુરગણો, આજ્ઞા ન લોપે ક્ષણ  
એવા અક્ષરધામના અધિપતિ, શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ

**Maya kaal raavi shashi surgano, agna na lopey kshanam  
Eva Akshardham na adhipatti, Shree Swaminarayan**

He who controls maya, time, sun, moon and all the demigods,  
Is Lord Swaminarayan, The Lord of Akshardham

આવી અક્ષરધામથી અવનિમાં, જે દેહધારી થયા  
આપ્યાં સુખ અપાર ભક્તજનને, દિલે ધરીને દયા

**Avi Akshardham thi avni ma, je deh dhaari thaya  
Aapya sukh apaar bhaktajanane, dille dhari ne daya**

Out of compassion and love for his devotees, He came down to earth from His abode Akshardham  
He who accepted a human form to please His devotees

કીધાં ચારૂ ચરીત્ર ગાન કરવા, જેણે કરૂણા કરી  
વંદુ મંગળ મુર્તિ ઉર ધરી, સર્વોપરી શ્રી હરી

**Kidha chaaru charitra gaanna karva, jeneey karuna kari  
Vandu mangal murti oora dhari, sarvopari Shree Hari**

I pay my obedience to the Supreme Lord Shree Hari  
Who has mercifully ordered to perform sankirtan and recite His divine past times



## પ્રાર્થના - PRATHNA

વિશ્વેશ છો સકળ વિશ્વતજ્ઞા વિદ્યાતા,  
**Vishvesh chho sakala vishvatana vidhata,**

ત્રાતા તમે સકળ મંગલ શાંતિદાતા.  
**Tratta tame sakal mangala shanti datta.**

માટે તમારું કરુણાનિધિ સત્યનામ,  
**Mate tamaru karunanidhee satya nama,**  
સાષ્ટાંગ નાથ તમને કરું હું પ્રણામ.  
**Sashtanga natha tamane karu hu pranama.**

અજ્ઞાનપાશ કરુણા કરી કાપી નાખો,  
**Agnana pasha karuna kari kapi nakho,**  
નિત્યે પ્રભુ તવ પદે મમ વૃત્તિ રાખો  
**Nitye Prabhu tava pade mama vrutee rakho**

ભક્તોનું પાલન કરો પ્રભુ સર્વયામ,  
**Bhaktonu palana karo prabhu sarva yama**

સાષ્ટાંગ નાથ તમને કરું હું પ્રણામ  
**Sastanga natha tamane karu hu pranama**



ત્વમેવ માતા ચ પિતા ત્વમેવ,  
**twameva mata cha pita twameva**

You are my Mother and You are my Father,  
ત્વમેવ બંધુ શ્રી સખા ત્વમેવ.  
**twameva bandhu scha sakha twameva**

You are my brother and You are my Friend.

ત્વમેવ વિદ્યા દ્રવિજં ત્વમેવ,  
**twameva vidya dravinam twameva**

You are my knowledge and You are my Wealth,

ત્વમેવ સર્વ મમ દેવ દેવ.  
**twameva sarva mama deva deva**

You are everything to me, Oh! My lord.





## AARTI

We perform the Aarti to welcome Shreeji Maharaj. We light up the murti with the flame of the aarti and turn all our attention to Him, as He is source of everything.

### Origin:

Guru Ramanand Swami was Guru of Shreeji Maharaj and Muktanand Swami. Before breathing his last at Farenji village, Ramanand Swami had appointed Lord Sahajanand Swami as his successor at Jetpur and advised all his followers and disciples to obey and act as per his wish. Muktanand Swami had a lot of affection for his Guru Ramanand Swami so when Ramanand Swami breathed his last, he felt gloomy and could not concentrate on any thing.

While at village Kalvani near Junagadh Shreeji Maharaj went for His bath with saints and disciples at nearby river around 3:00 p.m. Muktanand Swami and Paravatbhai followed him. Muktanand Swami had to go to attend nature's call, so he took a pot filled with water and went to Khakhara jungle. He thought of Guru Ramanand Swami in his mind and spoke softly to him "Kindly tell me who is God, You or Swaminarayan?" I want my doubts to be cleared. Suddenly there was lightening and he saw Ramanand Swami praying to Lord Swaminarayan. With tears in his eyes Muktanand Swami bowed down at the feet of his Guru Ramanand Swami. Ramanand Swami said, "I had told you earlier that I am just a drum beater, the real performer Sahajanand Swami would arrive soon on the scene. He is supreme God. You must obey him, as he is your preceptor and Lord, act according to his wish and please him. Then I too would be happy."

Muktanand swami bowed down at the feet of Ramanand Swami and promised to act according to his wish. After this event, the gloom of Muktanand Swami disappeared, emotions cooled down and he felt extremely relaxed and happy and had lot of peace of mind. After having his bath in the river near by, he collected several red flowers of Karen,

prepared a nice garland and rushed to the ashram. He arranged the Aarti for Lord Swaminarayan.



When Sahajanand Swami returned after his bath, Muktanand Swami requested him with folded hands to occupy the throne of his Guru Ramanand Swami and thereafter he performed Aarti, worshiped and prayed to him with "Jay Sadguru Swami". From that time onwards all His devotees had been performing the Aarti with devotion for Shreeji Maharaj at all temples of Swaminarayan faith and in their residences. It is being performed even today and would continue in future.

In all our Shikharabanddh temples (having peak) Aarti is performed five times a day as detailed here under:

### Name of Arati

Mangala  
Shanagar  
Rajabhog  
Sandhya  
Shayan

### Time of Arati

Wake up time (morning hours)  
Fully dressed after bath (at sunrise)  
During lunch (at noon)  
Evening prayer (at sunset)  
Just before going to bed.





## આરતી AARTI



જય સદગુરુ સ્વામી, પ્રભુ જય સદગુરુ સ્વામી; સહજાનંદ દયાળુ (૨), બળવંત બહુનામી ...પ્રભુ જય

**Jay Sadguru Swami, Prabhu Jay Sadguru Swami**  
**Sahajananda Dayalu (2) Balvanta Bahunami**

**Prabhu Jay ....**

Hail to Sahajanand Swami, who is an eminent preceptor and who is omniscient.  
Sahajanand is gracious and compassionate. He has many names and great divine prowess

ચરણ સરોજ તમારા વંદુ કર જોડી (૨); ચરણે શીશ ધર્યાથી (૨), દુઃખ નાખ્યાં તોડી; ...પ્રભુ જય

**Charansaroj Tamara, Vandu Karjodi (2)**  
**Charane Shish Dharyathi (2) Dukha Nakhya Todi**

**Prabhu Jay....**

I offer my humble respects at your lotus feet with folded hands,  
bowing at your feet; you have dissolved all my miseries.

નારાયણ નર ભ્રાતા દ્વિજકુળ તનુ ધારી (૨); પામર પતિત ઉધાર્યા (૨), અગણિત નર નારી; ...પ્રભુ જય

**Narayan Narbrata, Dveejkul Tanu Dhari (2)**  
**Pamar Pateet Uddharya (2) Aganeet Naranari**

**Prabhu Jay....**

You, Lord Narayana, who were born in a Brahmin family,  
have redeemed innumerable fallen and demonic souls (Jiva).

નિત્ય નિત્ય નૌતમ લીલા કરતા અવિનાશી (૨); અડસઠ તીરથ ચરણે (૨), કોટી ગયા કાશી;...પ્રભુ જય

**Neetya Neetya Nautamleela, Karta Avinashee (2)**  
**Adasath Teerath Charane (2) Koti Gaya Kashi**

**Prabhu Jay....**

You perform divine event every day, and you are eternal. The sixty-eight holy pilgrimage places rest  
at your feet, and to serve you is greater in merit than to visit Kashis (Vanarasi) and Gaya millions of  
times.

પુરુષોત્તમ પ્રગટનું જે દર્શન કરશે (૨); કાળ કરમથી છુટી (૨), કુટુંબ સહિત તરશે; ...પ્રભુ જય

**Purushottam Pragatanu, Je Darshan Karashe (2)**  
**Kal Karam Thi Chhuti (2) Kutumb Sahit Tarashe**

**Prabhu Jay....**

Those who have darshan of the manifest Lord will be freed from the clutches of time moving to  
death and rebirth, and they will be redeemed along with their whole families.

આ અવસર કરુણાનિધિ કરુણા બહુ કીધી (૨); મુક્તાનંદ કહે મુક્તિ (૨), સુગમ કરી સિદ્ધિ;...પ્રભુ જય

**Aa Avasar karuna Nidhi, Karuna Bahu Keedhee (2)**  
**Muktanand Kahe Mukti (2) Sugam Kari Siddhi**

**Prabhu Jay....**

Now you are very gracious and the source of grace.  
You have shown us an easy path to emancipations

## થાળ THAAL



જમો થાળ જીવન જાઉં વારી, ધોઉં કર ચરણ કરો ત્યારી ... જમો થાળ

**jamo thaala jeevana jaau vaaree, dhovu kara charana karo  
tyaaree ... jamo thaala**

બેસો મેલ્યા બાજોઠિયા ઢાળી, કટોરા કંચનની થાળી; જળે ભર્યા ચંબુચોખાળી

... જમો થાળ ૧

**beso melyaa baajothiyaa dhaalee, katoraa kanchananeer thaalee;  
jale bharyaa chambu chokhaalee**

**...jamo thaala 1**

કરી કાઠા ઘઉંની પોળી, મેલી ઘૃત સાકરમાં બોળી, કાઢ્યો રસ કેરીનો ઘોળી

... જમો થાળ ૨

**karee kaathaa ghaunee puri, melee dhruta saakarmaa bolee;  
kaadhyo rasa kereeno gholee,**

**...jamo thaala 2**

ગળ્યા સાટા ઘેબર ફુલવડી, દૂધપાક માલ પુવા કઢી, પુરી પોચી થઈ છે ઘીમાં ચઢી...

... જમો થાળ ૩

**galyaa saataa ghebar phoolavadee, doodhapaaka maalapuvaa kadhee;  
pooree pochee thae chhe gheemaa chadhee,**

**...jamo thaala 3**

અથાણાં શાક સુંદર ભાજી, લાવી છું તરત કરી તાજી, દહીં ભાત સાકર છે ઝાઝી

... જમો થાળ ૪

**athaanaa shaaka sundara bhaajee, laavee chhu tarata karee taajee;  
dahee bhaata saakara chhe jhaajhee,**

**...jamo thaala 4**

ચળુ કરો લાવું જળજાળી, એલચી લવીંગ સોપારી, પાન બીડી બનાવી સારી

... જમો થાળ ૫

**chalu karo laavu jalajhaaree, elaachee laving soparee;  
paanabee dee banaavee saaree,**

**...jamo thaala 5**

મુખવાસ મન ગમતા લઈને, પ્રસાદી થાળ તણી દઈને, બેસો સિંહાસન રાજ થઈને

... જમો થાળ ૬

**mukhavaasa managamataa laeene, prasaadi thaala tani daeene;  
beso sinhaasana raajee thaeene,**

**...jamo thaala 6**

કમરે કરીને ફેંટો, રાજેશ્વર ઓઢીને રેંટો, ભુમાનંદના વહાલા ભેટો

... જમો થાળ ૭

**kamare kaseene pheto, raajeshvara odheene reto;  
bhoomanand na vaahlaa bheto,**

**...jamo thaala 7**



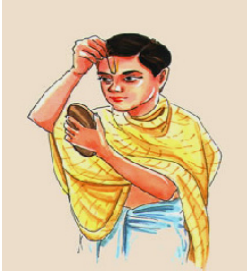
# POOJA

## 1. Preparation

Wake up early in the morning. Before you get out of your bed, sit on your bed fold your hands and say Swaminarayan 5 times. Get out of bed, go to the bathroom, brush your teeth, have a bath and put on clean clothes.

Set out your pooja on a clean asana(mat).

## 2. Tilak Chandlo



First do a tilak and chandlo at the centre of your forehead as instructed by Shreeji Maharaj in the Shikshapatri.

Boys do a tilak-chandlo, tilak using gopichand and chandlo using kumkum

Girls only have to do chandlo using kumkum

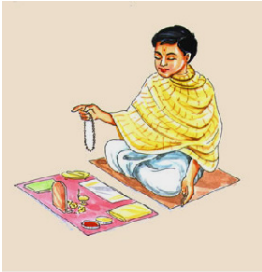
## 3. Meditation



Imagine that Ghanshyam is sleeping, wake Him up and help Him brush His teeth, have a bath and dress up.

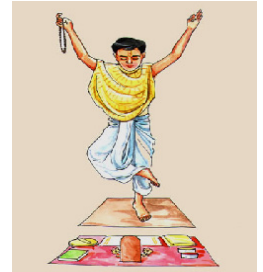
Offer Him something to eat and request him to accept your prayers.

## 4. Mala and chanting Swaminarayan



Take the mala, touch the mer (big bead) on both your eyes and over your head. Start mala by turning one bead at a time and chant Swaminarayan mantra. Make sure your index finger does not touch the mala.

Do at least one mala standing up.

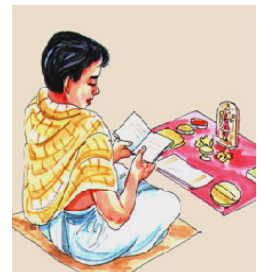


## 5. Pradakshina, Dandvat & reading shikshapatri



Do pradakshina (going round in clockwise direction) while doing the mala and chanting Swaminarayan.

Do Dandvat pranam and then read at least one Shloka from the Shikshapatri.



## 6. Pray to Shreeji Maharaj to:

- protect you from bad influence
- give you strength to follow His command as in shikshapatri
- help you remember him always.

Finish your pooja and say Jay Swaminarayan to your parents and to anyone else who is there. Do darshan at you home temple.

## મને ખ્યારી લાગે મૂર્તિ તમારી .. .. Mane pyari laage murti tamari .. ..



મને ખ્યારી લાગે મૂર્તિ તમારી  
**Mane pyari laage murti tamari**  
ઘનશ્યામજી ખ્યારી લાગે મૂર્તિ તમારી  
**Ghanshyamji pyari laage murti tamari**

કુંકુમનો ચાંદલો ને ભાલ તિલક વચ્ચે,  
**Kumkumno chandalo ne bhaal tilaka vacche**

હારે તમે ભાળો ને ભ્રમણા ભુલાવી  
**Haare tame bhalo ne brahmana bhulavi**  
ઘનશ્યામજી .. .. ૧  
**Ghanshyamji .. . 1**



કાને કુંડળ હરિને માથે મુગટ શોભે,  
**Kane kundala harine mathe mugata shobhe,**  
હારે કંઠે ધારી માણેક જડી માળા  
**Haare kanthe dhari maneka jadi mala**  
ઘનશ્યામજી .. .. ૨  
**Ghanshyamji .. . 2**



જામો ઝરિયાની પહેર્યો સોનેરી સુરવાળ છે,  
**Jaamo jhariyani paheryo soneri survala chhe,**  
હારે તમારી કેડે કસ્યો છે કંદોરો  
**Haare tamari kede kasyo che kandoro**  
ઘનશ્યામજી .. .. ૩  
**Ghanshyamji .. . 3**



મૂર્તિમાં મગ્ન થઈ ચરણોમાં ચિત્ત ઢઈ,  
**Murtima magna thai charanoma chitta dai**  
હારે જાય દાસ નારાયણ વારી  
**Haare jaya dasa Narayan vari**  
ઘનશ્યામજી .. .. ૪  
**Ghanshyamji .. . 4**





ઘનશ્યામ ઘનશ્યામ મારી સાથે રમવા .. ..

## Ghanshyam Ghanshyam mari saathe ramva .. ..

ઘનશ્યામ ઘનશ્યામ મારી સાથે રમવા આવશો કે નહી, આવશો કે નહી

Ghanshyam Ghanshyam mari saathe ramva aavsho ke nahi aavsho ke nahi

પહેરવાનો જામો મોરપીછા વાળો

Pahervano jamo morpichha vado

મોગરાની માળા આપીશ તમને હું, આપીશ તમને હું

mograni mala aapish tamane hu, aapish tamane hu

ઘનશ્યામ ઘનશ્યામ ...૧

Ghanshyam Ghanshyam..... 1

બેસવાને બાજોઠ સૂવાને પલંગ

Besvane bajoth, suvane palang

ઓઢવાને દુશાલ આપીશ તમને હું, આપીશ તમને હું

odhvane dushal aapish tamane hu, aapish tamane hu

ઘનશ્યામ ઘનશ્યામ ...૨

Ghanshyam Ghanshyam..... 2

મારા ઘેર આવજો, સારું સારું જમજો

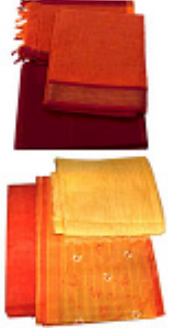
Mara gher aavjo saru saru jamjo

મોટા મોટા લાડવા આપીશ તમને હું, આપીશ તમને હું

mota mota ladva aapish tamane hu aapish tamane hu

ઘનશ્યામ ઘનશ્યામ ...૩

Ghanshyam Ghanshyam..... 3



## સ્વામિનારાયણની ગાડી - Swaminarayan ni gaadi



મારી સ્વામિનારાયણની ગાડી છુક છુક કરતી ચાલે (૨)  
 Mari Swaminarayan ni gaadi chhukh chhukh karati chale (2)  
 ઉપર સત્સંગનો ઝંડો ફરકે  
 upar satsangno jando farke.....  
 .. .. કેવી દડબડ દડબડ દડબડ દોડે છે.. ..  
 .. .. kevi dadbad dadbad dadbad dhode chhe.. ..



પહેલાં તક્તામાં નરનારાયણદેવ બિરાજે, એ તો ભક્તો માટે તપ કરે છે  
 Pahela taktama Narnarayandev biraje, eto bhakto mate tapa kare chhe  
 નરનારાયણદેવ શું કરે છે? .. .. ભક્તો માટે તપ કરે છે  
 Narnarayandev shuuh kare chhe? .. .. Bhakto matte tapa kare chhe  
 બોલો નરનારાયણ દેવની જય. મારી સ્વામિનારાયણની ગાડી .. ..  
 Bolo Narnarayandev ni jay Mari Swaminarayan ni gaadi ....



બીજા તક્તામાં સહજાનંદ સ્વામિ, એ તો સહેજે સહેજે આનંદ આપે છે  
 Bija taktama Sahajanand Swami, eto saheje saheje anand aape chhe  
 સહજાનંદ સ્વામિ શું કરે છે? .. .. પોતાના બાળકોને આનંદ આપે છે  
 Sahajanand Swami shuuh kare chhe? .. Potana badkone anand aape chhe  
 બોલો સહજાનંદ સ્વામિ મહારાજની જય. મારી સ્વામિનારાયણની ગાડી .. ..  
 Bolo Sahajanand Swami Maharaj ni jay Mari Swaminarayan ni gaadi ....



ત્રીજા તક્તામાં રાધાકૃષ્ણ હરિકૃષ્ણ, એ તો જુગલ ઉપાસના સમજાવે છે  
 Trija taktama Radhakrushna HariKrishna, eto jugal upasana samjave chhe  
 રાધાકૃષ્ણ શું સમજાવે છે? .. .. રાધા અને કૃષ્ણની ઉપાસના કરો  
 RadhaKrusna Shuuh samjave chhe? .. Radha ane Krushnani upasana karo  
 બોલો રાધાકૃષ્ણદેવની જય. મારી સ્વામિનારાયણની ગાડી .. ..  
 Bolo RadhaKrushna Hari ni jay Mari Swaminarayan ni gaadi ...



વચલા તક્તામાં શ્રી ઘનશ્યામ પ્રભુ, એ તો અભયદાન સહુને આપે છે  
 Vachala taktama Shree Ghanshyam Prabhu, eto abhaydan sahune aape chhe  
 ઘનશ્યામ મહારાજ શું કહે છે? .. .. આવો મારી પાસે કોઈથી ડરશો નહીં  
 Ghanshyam Maharaj shun kahe chhe?..Aavo mari paase koythi darso nahi  
 બોલો ઘનશ્યામ મહારાજની જય. મારી સ્વામિનારાયણની ગાડી.. ..  
 Bolo Ghanshyam Maharaj ni jay Mari Swaminarayan ni gaadi ....

મારી સ્વામિનારાયણની ગાડી નિત્ય દોડતી રહેશે  
 Mari Swaminarayan ni gaadi Nitya dodti raheshe



## નાના બાળ – Nana bal

છીએ અમે સૌ તારા બાળ, લે અમારી તુ સંભાળ

**Chheeye ame sahu tara bal, le amari tu sambhad**

ભુલ કદી કરીએ અમે તો, પ્રભુજી તમે કરજો માફ

**Bhul kadi kariye ame toh, prabhuji tame karjo maaf**



વહેલા ઉઠી નાહીએ ધોઈએ, સ્વામિનારાયણની પૂજા કરીએ,

**Vahela utthi nahiye dhoyiye, Swaminarayan ni puja kariye,**

માતા પિતાને પ્રણામ કરીએ, દફતર લઈને નિશાળે જઈએ,

**mata pittah ne pranam kariye, daftar layine nishade jaiye,**

આચાર્યોને અમે નમીએજી (૨) ...છીએ અમે સૌ તારા બાળ

**Aacharyo ne ame namiyeji (2)...Chheeye ame sahu tara bal**



સારી સોબત સંગે રમીએ, કુટેવોથી દુર જ રહીએ,

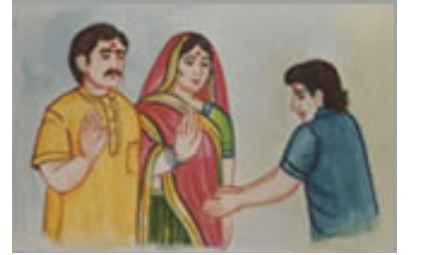
**Sari saubat sange ramiye, kutevo thi duraj rahiye ,**

સદેવ સારા કામ જ કરીએ, રમતાં જમતાં હરતાં ફરતાં,

**sadev sara kamaj kariye, ramta jamta harta pharta,**

શ્રીજીને અમે યાદ કરીએજી (૨) ... છીએ અમે સૌ તારા બાળ

**Shreeji ne ame yaad kariyeji(2) ..Chheeye ame sahu tara bal**



ઘરમાં સુંદર મંદિર કરીએ, આરતી કરીએ દંડવત કરીએ,

**Gharma sunder mandir kariye, aarti kariye dandvat kariye,**

ભાત ભાતના થાળ ધરીએ, મીઠી મધૂરી વહાલ ભરેલી,

**bhaat bhaat na thaal dhariye, mithi madhuri vahal bhareli,**

પ્રસાદી અમે જમીએજી (૨)

... છીએ અમે સૌ તારા બાળ

**prasadi ame jamiyeji (2)**

... Chheeye ame sahu tara bal



# મોગરાનાં ફૂલ સખી મોગરાનાં ફૂલ-Mogra na phool Sakhi Mogra na phool

મોગરાનાં ફૂલ સખી મોગરાનાં ફૂલ,  
શ્રીજને પ્યારા બહુ મોગરાનાં ફૂલ

**Mogra na phool sakhi, mogra na phool ,  
Shreeji ne pyaara bahu mogra na phool**



લક્ષ્મી વાડી શ્રીજની રૂડી રઢીયાળી, (૨)  
પૂજપો લેવાને હું તો પ્રેમેથી ચાલી, (૨)  
ખીલ્યાં ખીલ્યાં રે ત્યાંતો મનગમતાં ફૂલ

શ્રીજને ..૧



**Laxmi vaadi Shreeji ni rudi raadhiyadi, (2)  
Pushpo levane hu to premethi chali, (2)  
Khilya khilya re tyatoh man gamata phool**

Shreeji ..1



ડોલર ગુલાબ, ગુલચંપો, ચમેલી, (૨)  
કેતકી કરેણ જઈ જુઈ અલબેલી, (૨)  
મોગરાની પાંખડીમાં સૌરભ અમુલ

શ્રીજને ..૨



**Dollar, gulab, gulchampo, chameli, (2)  
Ketki, kaeren, jaei, jui albeli,  
Mogra ni pankhdi ma saurab amul**

(2)  
Shreeji ..2

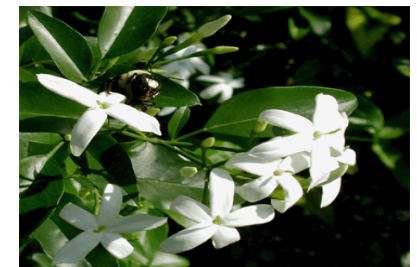


જલડે ફૂલડે મે નામ શ્રીજનું લીધું, (૨)  
વીણી વીણીને માફ મનકું પ્રોહી લીધું, (૨)  
એકસોને આઠ ચૂંટયાં મોગરાનાં ફૂલ

શ્રીજને ..૩

**phoolde, phoolde me naam Shreeji nu lidhu, (2)  
vini vini ne maaru manadu prohi lidhu, (2)  
ek so ne aath chuntya mogra na phool**

Shreeji ..3



મોગરાની માળા ગૂંથી માવ કવિ રાયે, (૨)  
કાવ્યની કુસુમ માળા કદી ન કરમાય, (૨)  
વિણગુણ એ માળાતણાં મૂલ છે અમૂલ

શ્રીજને ..૪

**Mograni maala gunthi maav kavi raye, (2)  
Kavyani Kusum mala kedi na karmaye, (2)  
Vin guna eh mala tana mul chhe amul**

Shreeji ..4



## તમારી મુર્તિ વિના મારા નાથ રે - Tamari murti vina mara naath re

તમારી મુર્તિ વિના મારા નાથ રે, બીજું મને આપશો માં, (૨)  
હું તો એજ માંગું છું જોડી હાથ રે, બીજું મને આપશો માં

**Tamari murti vina mara naath re, biju mane aapsho mah (2)**  
**hu toh ej mangu chhu jodi haath re, biju mane aapsho mah**

આપો તમારા જનનો સંગ રે, (૨)  
બીજું મને આપશો માં, હે મને આપશો માં  
મારા જીવમાં એજ ઉમંગ રે, બીજું .....

તમારી ..૧

**Aapo Tamara jan no sanga re, (2)**  
**biju maney aapsho mah, heh mane aapsho mah**  
**marajivma ej umang re, biju .....**

tamari ..1

મારા ઉરમાં કરો નિવાસ રે, (૨)  
બીજું મને આપશો માં, હે મને આપશો માં  
મને રાખો રસીયા તમ પાસ રે, બીજું .....

તમારી ..૧

**Mara urma karo nivaas re, (2)**  
**biju mane aapsho mah, heh mane aapsho mah**  
**maney rakho rasiya tam paas re, biju .....**

tamari ..1

એજ અરજ દયા નિધિ દેવ રે, (૨)  
બીજું મને આપશો માં, હે મને આપશો માં  
આપો ચરણ કમળની સેવ રે, બીજું .....

તમારી ..૧

**Ej arji daya nidhi dev re, (2)**  
**biju mane aapsho mah, heh mane aapsho mah**  
**aapo charan kamal ni sev re, biju .....**

tamari ..1

કરો ઈતર વાસના દુર રે, (૨)  
બીજું મને આપશો માં, હે મને આપશો માં  
રાખો પ્રેમાનંદને હજુર રે, બીજું .....

તમારી ..૧

**Karo ittar vaasna dur re, (2)**  
**biju mane aapsho mah, heh mane aapsho mah**  
**Rakho Premanand ne hajoore, biju .....**

tamari ..1



## માતા પિતા ભુલશો નહી - Mata Pita Bhulsho nahi

ભુલો ભલે બીજું બધું મા-બાપને ભુલશો નહી,  
અગણિત છે ઉપકાર એના એ કદી વિસરશો નહી.  
પથ્થર પૂજ્યા પૃથ્વી તણા ત્યારે દીકું તમ મુખડું,  
એ પુનિત જનના કાળજી પથ્થર બની ઘૂંદશો નહી.

Bhulo bhale biju badhu Maa-Bapa ne bhulsho nahi,  
aganita chhe upkar ena eh kadi visarasho nahi.  
Patthar puja pruthvi tanah tyare dithu tam mukhdu,  
Eh punit janana kadjia pathhar bani chundsho nahi

કાઠી મુખેથી કોળિયો મહોમા દઈ મોટા કર્યા,  
અમૃત તણા દેનાર સામે ઝેર કદી ઉડાડશો નહી.  
લાખો લડાવ્યા લાડ તમને કોડ સૌ પૂરા કર્યા,  
એ કોડ સહુ પૂરનારના કોડ પૂરવા ભુલશો નહી.

Kadhi mukhethi kodiyo mohama dayi mota karya,  
amrut tana denar saameh zer kadi udadsho nahi.  
Lakho ladavya lada tamane kod sau pura karya  
Eh kod sahu purnarna kod purva bhulsho nahi

લાખો કમાતા હો ભલે પણ માતા પિતા નવ થયા,  
એ લાખ નહી પણ રાખ છે એમ માનવું ભુલશો નહી.  
સંતાનની સેવા ચાહો તો સંતાન છો સેવા કરો,  
જેવું કરો તેવું ભરો એ ભાવના ભુલશો નહી

Lakho kamata ho tame pana mata pitta nava thariya  
Eh lakh nahi pana rakh chhe em manvu bhulso nahi  
Santanni seva chaho Santana chho seva karo  
Jevu karo tevu bharo eh bhavana bhulsho nahi

ભીને સુઈ પોતે અને સૂકે સુવડાવ્યા આપને,  
એવી અમીમય આંખને ભુલીને ભીજવશો નહી.  
પુષ્પો બિછાવ્યા પ્રેમથી જેણે તમારા રાહ પર,  
એ પ્રેમ તણા પંથ પર કંટક કદી બનશો નહી.

Bhine suyee pote ane suke suvadaviya aapane  
Evi amimay ankhane bhuline bhinjavsho nahi  
pushpo bichhavya premthi jene tamara raha par  
eh prem tana panth para kankat kadi bansho nahi

ધન ખરચતાં મળશે બધું માતા-પિતા મળશે નહી,  
એના પુનિત ચરણો તણી ચાહના તમે ભુલશો નહી.

Dhan kharachta malashe badhu mata pitta malashe nahi  
Ena punita charano tani chahana tame bhulsho nahi

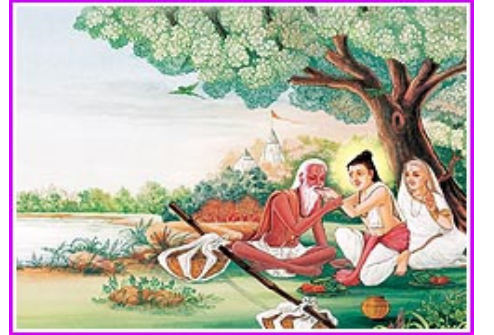
*My disciples shall render lifelong services to their parents, guru and ailing persons according to their abilities. (Shikshapatri Verse 139)*

### Did you know:

Ghanshyam wanted to leave home at a very early age but prolonged His stay at home to look after Dharmadev and Bhaktimata. He left home only after they had both passed away.



Shravan Kumar looked after his poor old and blind parents with dedication without expecting anything back in return from them.



Although Lord Rama was born and brought up as a prince, He happily went into exile for 14 years, to fulfill His father, Dashrath Raja's promise to Kaikeyi, step-mother of Lord Rama.





## GOOD BEHAVIOUR

### Behaviour at home

- We should respect everyone: all elders, our parents, grandparents and siblings.
- We should not argue with our parents, but try to understand what they are trying to teach us.
- We should live with love and respect in order to develop peace and harmony within our families.
- We should express our feelings in a quiet manner and listen to others so that we can understand each other and develop family harmony.
- We should talk to our parents about anything that may be bothering us like problems at school and home or anything else.
- We should help our parents with chores around the house, such as, cleaning our rooms, washing dishes, etc. on a regular basis. This way we help reduce the workload of our parents and make ourselves more disciplined. It also helps us understand the hard work our parents go through for us and by helping them we can show them that we appreciate it.
- We should participate in the family events ghar sabha daily – performing aarti, singing dhun, etc. By remembering Ghanshyam everyday with our families, we learn more about satsang and about each other and become closer as a family and progress in satsang together.

### Behaviour in Mandir

- We should remove our shoes before we enter the mandir.
- We should not chew or eat anything unless it is received in the mandir as prashad, so properly throw away chewing gums before you enter the temple.
- We should not do Darshan and Pradikshna while God is sleeping or eating.
- We should never shout or run in the mandir. A mandir is God's home and it is a place of peacefulness therefore we should not make noise by talking loudly or playing games.
- We should not talk when the katha is in progress. Instead we should sit on the floor cross-legged and listen intently. When we talk it should only be about religious matters.
- Scriptures and holy objects are God's image so they should not be thrown around.

### Always remember

Speak no bad



Bal Sanskar Kendra

See no bad



<http://www.shreeswaminarayan.org.uk/>

Hear no bad



Bal Sanskar Kendra

## **CURSE BECOMES A BOON**

A long time ago, Lord NarNarayan dev were seated in Badrikashram. Facing them sat Dharmadev, Bhaktimata and a hundred and thirty nine Rushi's and Sadhus who had come to have darshan of Lord NarNarayan after completing their pilgrimage.

Lord NarNarayan had asked the Rushi's about news on earth, therefore the Rushi's were telling Lord NarNarayan Dev about how satsangis and innocent people were suffering at the hands of sinners like thieves, murderers, etc.

Everyone was so engrossed in the discussion that they did not notice when Durwasa muni came to Badrikashram from Kailash. He was a short-tempered man and he felt insulted that no one had noticed him and welcomed him. He cursed them all, that they will have to be born on earth and suffer. Dharmadev, Bhaktimata and all the Rushi munis asked for forgiveness from Durwasa muni, explaining that they had not seen or heard him coming to Badrikashram. On hearing this Durwasa muni calmed down but replied that he cannot take his curse back.

Lord NarNarayan then told everyone "The curse was our wish and we too have been cursed. To lighten the burden of sin on earth, we will take birth as son of Dharma and Murti (Bhaktimata) and will eradicate evil and sin, to create true Dharma on earth!" On hearing these words everyone was comforted. Hence the curse of Durwasa muni became a boon for those who were suffering on earth.





## **BIRTH OF GHANSHYAM**

In Shree Bhagwad Gita, Bhagwan Shree Krishna says to Arjun:

यदा यदा हि धर्मस्य ग्लानिर्भवति भारत, अत्युत्थानमर्धमस्य तदात्मानं सृजाम्यहम् ४-७

Yada yada hi dharmasya glanir bhavati Bharata  
Abhyutthanam adharmasya tadatmanam srjamy aham ||4-7||

Whenever there is a decline in religious practice, O descendent of Bharat, and a predominant rise of  
irreligion -- at that time I descend myself

परित्राણाय साधूनाम् विनाशाय च दुष्कृताम्, धर्मसंस्थापनार्थाय सम्भवामि युगे युगे ४-८

Paritranaaya sadhunam, vinasaya cha duskrtam  
Dharma samsthapnarthaya, sambhavami yuge yuge ||4-8||

In order to deliver the pious and to annihilate the miscreants, as well as to re-establish the  
principles of religion, I advent Myself millennium after millennium

It was samvat 1837, the 9<sup>th</sup> day (Navmi) of the bright half (Sud) in the month of Chaitra. Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj was born at 10:10 P.M. in the house of Bhaktimata and Dharmadev at Chhappaiya, a village in northern India.

All around Ghanshyam was a bright light. Bhaktimata's eyes were dazzled with lustre.

After some time, she saw the Lord in midst of the rays of light. He was wearing fine golden clothes, had a silver flute in His hands, His head was dressed with a crown of feathers from a peacock. Bhaktimata was very pleased that Lord Krishna was born as her son. On seeing the bright lights Dharmadev arrived there and was joyous at seeing Lord Shree Krishna as his child.



All the people of Chhappaiya came to know of Ghanshyam's birth. There was joy and happiness everywhere. Deities showered flowers from the sky. Every man and woman came to the house of Dharmadev for the glimpse of Ghanshyam. They all celebrated the birth of Ghanshyam by dancing and singing:

"Dharma ghera Anand bhayo, Jay bolo Ghanshyam ki.....  
Chhappaiya meh Lal bhayo, Jay bolo Ghanshyam ki.....  
Bhakta ke Bhagwan bhayo, Jay bolo Ghanshyam ki.....  
Hathi Ghoda Palkhi, Jay bolo Ghanshyam ki....."

## પ્રગટ થયા પ્રભુ - Pragat thaya prabhu



પ્રગટ થયા પ્રભુ છપૈયા ગામ રે, ભક્તિ માતા ધર્મ તાતનું નામ રે. ... .. ૧

**Pragat thaya prabhu Chhappaiya gaam re, Bhakti mata Dharma tatanu nam re. ...1**

કૌશલ દેશમાં ધર્યો અવતાર રે, નોમ અજવાળી રૂડો ચૈત્ર માસ રે. ... .. ૨

**Kaushala desama dharyo avatar re, noma ajavali rudo chaitra masa re. ... .. 2**

તેડાવો જોશી ને પૂછાવો નામ રે, નામ ધર્યું રૂડું શ્રી ઘનશ્યામ રે. ... .. ૩

**Tedavo joshi ne puchhavo naam re, naam dharyu rudu shri Ghanshyam re. ... ..3**

મુખડું શોભે અતિ બાલુકે વેષ રે, સુંદર ભુરા માથે નાના નાના કેશ રે. ... .. ૪

**Mukhadu shobhe ati balude vesa re, sunder bhura mathe nana nana kesh re. ... 4**

હરખે જુલાવે માતા દુધ સાકર પાય રે, માતા માન્યુ સુ વહેલા મોટા થાય રે. ... .. ૫

**Harakhe julave mata dudha sakar paya re, mata manyu su vahela mota thaya re.5**

રડતા રમાડતા પારણીયે પોઢાકે રે, રેશમી દોરી લઈ હીચકાવે રે. ... .. ૬

**Radata ramadata paraniye podhade re, reshami dori lai hinchkave re. ... .. 6**

પોઢો પોઢો પ્રભુ જગના આધાર રે, પ્રેમાનંદ નિત્ય નવી લીલા ગાય રે. ... .. ૭

**Podho podho prabhu jagna adhara re, Premanand nitya navi leela gaya re. ... ..7**



## **GHANSHYAM & THE KRUTYAS**

All the people of Chhappaiya were delighted because of the manifestation of God. The great deities came everyday to see God for darshan but the demon **Kalidatt** had lost his sleep because he was confused and afraid of this divine child.

He gathered all the devilish people, and then ordered them to find an idea with which they could easily kill Ghanshyam. One of them said, "If we want to kill Ghanshyam, we have to send Krutyas (wicked, devilish women). They will bring him out of the house and, they will kill him in a cruel way." All the demons agreed to this idea.

The Krutyas, with fearsome dresses and sharp teeth, approached Bhaktimata who was playing with Ghanshyam. They violently snatched Ghanshyam from her hands and ran away. Bhaktimata started crying and shouting loudly, "Help me! My son is carried away by devils!" Hearing her crying, weeping, and wailing, Dharmadev, Rampratapji, Suvasini and other neighbours also came there.

Meanwhile, the Krutyas went eastward carrying Ghanshyam and took him to a mango orchard. While the Krutyas were carrying Ghanshyam, from His body came striking bright divine light and the Krutyas felt themselves burning. Ghanshyam also increased His body weight so the Krutyas became tired and couldn't carry him any longer so they put Him on the ground and started dancing around Him and chanting, "Beat him! Beat him!" and, "Eat him! Eat him!"

Meanwhile, Bhaktimata was praying to Hanumanji, their kuldev, to save and bring back her son. Hanumanji heard Bhaktimata's prayers and quickly went after the Krutyas. He shouted out for the Krutyas to leave Ghanshyam alone. Hearing his thunderous voice the Krutyas became fearful and began to run away. But Hanumanji took a long jump and caught them. He grabbed their hair and forcefully threw them to the ground. Using his tail he tied them and hurled them onto the ground. The Krutyas were hurt and bleeding and knew they could not win over Hanumanji so they humbly requested, "Oh, Hanumanji! Kindly free us from your clutches! We will never come back to this village anymore!"

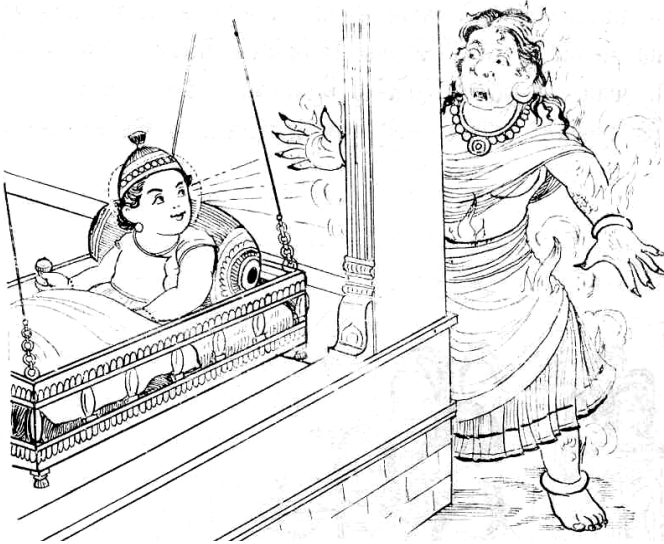


Hanumanji let them go and the Krutyas ran away as fast as they could. Hanumanji bowed down to Ghanshyam and gently picked Him up with both his hands and brought Him home. On seeing Hanumanji with her son, Bhaktimata became very happy and offered many sweets and fruits to him. She offered him **Sukhdi**, a kind of sweet that was the favourite of

Hanumanji. Then they offered him a garland of **Ankada**, a kind of flower.

With great pleasure, Hanumanji promised Bhaktimata, "Remember me whenever you are in trouble. I will always be there anytime to serve Ghanshyam." Hanumanji then disappeared.

## **PUNISHMENT TO KOTARA**



After having been beaten by Hanumanji, much frightened Krutyas went straight to Kalidatta. They told him everything that happened in Chhappaiya. Kalidatta became angry and both of his eyes became red with anger. He called Kotara who was dark and ugly looking with devilish powers.

Kalidatta ordered Kotara, "Go to Chhappaiya and kill Ghanshyam immediately." Kotara said "O King! I will go to Chhappaiya and kill Ghanshyam immediately."

She went to Chhappaiya and hid behind Ghanshyam's house. Ghanshyam was only six days old. Everyone was celebrating and busy with their own work. Kotara saw that no one was taking care of Ghanshyam. She rushed to Ghanshyam's cradle with the hope to kill Him. But as she reached the cradle, the divine light from Ghanshyam's eyes started burning Kotara's body. Kotara started screaming, "I am burning, I am burning". Soon she fell down dead. The people of Chhappaiya heard the noise and gathered around. They were scared seeing the dead body of the Kotara. They cremated the body of Kotara.

They realised that Ghanshyam was not an ordinary child, but was the God himself

## **PLAY WITH THE MOON**



It was a fascinating night of Sharad Purnima. There was a bright light everywhere. At that time Ghanshyam was sleeping in his cradle. Bhaktimata slept in a bed beside and everyone else in the house was fast asleep too. Near Ghanshyam's cradle there was a window and the moonlight was falling on Ghanshyam's face.

Suddenly Ghanshyam awoke and looked up and saw the moon and felt like playing with the moon. He put His hand out of the window and stretched it until He caught the moon and then He pulled the moon towards Him inside the

house. The moon became like a little child and they started playing together. The whole house was filled with bright moonlight.

Bhaktimata suddenly woke up and found the whole house filled with a bright light. When her eyes became accustomed to the brightness she saw Ghanshyam playing with the moon and felt really scared. Ghanshyam saw that Bhaktimata was scared so He said, "Don't be afraid mother; the moon has come to play with me. It was I who caught him and brought him into our house to play with." Hearing this Bhaktimata was really happy.

The moon was happy that he had a chance to play with Ghanshyam. The moon bowed down to Ghanshyam and Bhaktimata and went back to his place in the sky.



## **BAL GHANSHYAM'S FUTURE**

Bhagwan Swaminarayan's parents, Dharmadev and Bhaktimata, were Brahmins. Dharmadev was a famous pandit of Sanskrit. Dharmadev and Bhaktimata often wondered about Ghanshyam's future.

Would He become a great scholar, a business merchant or a soldier? How could they find this out? There is a saying that a child's virtues can be known when he is in the cradle.

So, one day, Dharmadev thought of a brilliant plan. He placed a shastra, (a Holy Scripture) a shining gold coin and a small gleaming sword on a low stool near Ghanshyam's cradle. Dharmadev thought that if Ghanshyam picked the shastra He would become a great scholar, if He picked the sword He would become a soldier and if He picked up the gold coin He would become a business merchant.



Little Ghanshyam was watching His father with curiosity. He stared at the three objects on the stool. Then He climbed out of the cradle and toddled forward on His knees. Dharmadev and Bhaktimata were watching eagerly. Ghanshyam reached the stool, He put His hand straight on the shastra. He tried to pick it up with His little hands. He did not even glance at the shining gold coin or sword.

Dharmadev and Bhaktimata rushed forward in joy to hug Him! Now they knew that Ghanshyam would become a scholar.

## **NAMING THE CHILD**

The child was three months of age, when Markandeya Rushi, who was on pilgrimage, came to Dharmadev's house. Dharmadev knew he was a jyotish therefore he requested him to carry out the naming ceremony (namakaran).

Markandeya Rushi was very happy and said that this child is going to remove [har] the plight of people, so His name will be **Hari**. All minds are attracted towards the child when they see him, so His second name will be **Krishna**. By joining the two names He will be known as **Harikrishna**.



He continued to say that the child will become the saviour of thousands of people and will develop five qualities (tyaga, tapa, Gnan, Yoga and Dharma) like Lord Shiva therefore He will also be known as **Neelkanth** and saying thus Markandeya Rushi ended the naming ceremony.

After the ceremony Dharmadev gave Markandeya Rushi and other Brahmins food and clothes as offerings.

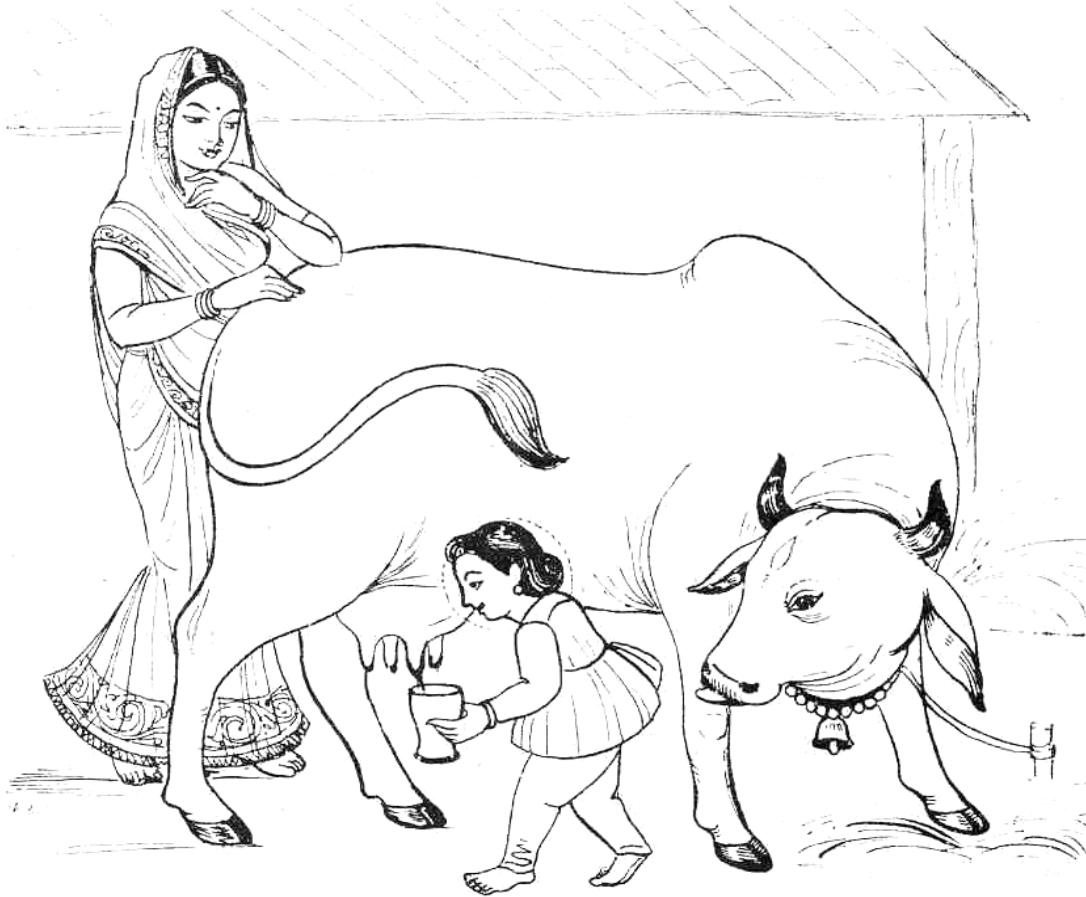
It is noted that Markandeya Rushi took rebirth as Swami Mahabhuvanandji and was able to have darshan of Ghanshyam and miracles He performed.

## **DUDHPAK PURI INSTEAD OF KHICHDI**

One afternoon, Ghanshyam felt very hungry so he ran inside the house and asked Bhaktimata to give him some food. Bhaktimata gave Ghanshyam some cold khichdi to eat and said, "You start eating the khichdi slowly and I will get you some milk."

Saying so, Bhaktimata went to the cowshed and began to milk Gomati. However, Gomati did not give one drop of milk because a cow gives milk only twice a day: in the morning and in the evening. Just then Ghanshyam arrived with a glass in his hand. Bhaktimata explained that it was not milking time yet and so Gomati cannot give any milk. She said, "Quietly eat your khichdi and have the milk later." Gomati cow was very fond of Ghanshyam and if He wanted to have milk, she would give milk at any time of the day.

Not listening to Bhaktimata, Ghanshyam went to Gomati cow and held the glass under the cow's udders. Immediately Gomati started giving milk and the glass overflowed. Bhaktimata was surprised. She quickly went in the house and brought a big milk pot and placed it under Gomati's udders. It too filled up with milk and started overflowing so Bhaktimata brought another pot. That too was soon filled and overflowing so Bhaktimata kept bringing more pots and they kept filling up.



Bhaktimata thought that if Gomati does not stop giving milk then all the pots will get filled with milk and what will she cook in. Ghanshyam understood his mother's confusion. He consoled her. "Don't worry mother! This is not the normal time for a cow to give milk, but Gomati did so upon my orders. Now I do not want any more, so she will stop giving more milk." Before Ghanshyam finished saying this, Gomati restrained her flowing milk.

Bhaktimata was surprised by this miracle and felt very happy. She thought we have so much milk so I'll make dudhpak. She told Ghanshyam, "Don't eat the cold khichdi, I will prepare dudhpak and puri and you can have that." Soon Bhaktimata finished preparing dudhpak and puri and lovingly fed Ghanshyam.



## **GLIMPSE OF UNIVERSE IN GHANSHYAM'S MOUTH**

Once upon a time, Ghanshyam's mother was playing with Ghanshyam with lots of love and affection. Sometimes Ghanshyam would laugh and smile. Bhaktimata seeing His delighted face would kiss Him. Playing so, Ghanshyam opened his mouth really widely.

As Bhaktimata stared into His open mouth, she saw oceans and the sky with stars in his small mouth. She also saw the two great planets, the sun and the moon. Not only that, but she also visualized the animate vitalities of the Deity, the ascetics (Rushis) of the former times. It was as if the whole universe was in His mouth.



Soon, she remembered that Bal Krishna incarnation had also shown the whole universe in His mouth to mother Yashoda. She believed that her son, Ghanshyam, was God himself.

## **REMEDY FOR SMALL POX**

It was summer time, and there was so much heat. One day Ghanshyam has a fever, and was not feeling well. Knowing Ghanshyam was not well, Chandamasi came to visit. She gently touched Ghanshyam's body and saw spots so she said, "He has small pox. Let Him sleep in an airy place." Bhaktimata made him sleep and gently pressed his head while singing kirtans.

Just then Ghanshyam's maternal aunt (mami), Laxmibai came. Looking at sick Ghanshyam she told Bhaktimata, "Don't allow Ghanshyam to go outside or to have a bath for 20 days. Be careful water should not touch His body." Hearing this Ghanshyam said, "Oh, no! How can I go without my usual everyday bath? We are Brahmins and it is our duty to bath every morning, I will bath with cold water the fever will go away."

Bhaktimata believed Ghanshyam so she drew out some water from the well outside their house. She then made Ghanshyam sit on a low stool and poured cold water over His head. After the bath Bhaktimata noticed that the marks on Ghanshyam's body had disappeared.



Laxmibai and Chandamasi were surprised and thought for sure Ghanshyam is God Himself.\_

## **EAR PIERCING CEREMONY**

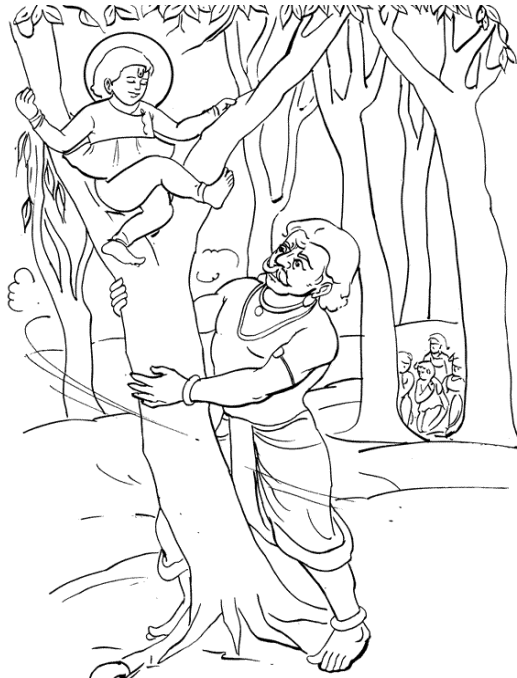


Rampratapbhai said, "Stop playing naughty tricks and come down quickly!" Ghanshyam replied that He would sit quietly if Bhaktimata would give him some molasses (Gud). Ghanshyam came down when Bhaktimata brought some molasses and ate them while His ears were being pierced. Ghanshyam showed His divine power by being at one place at one moment and then being in another place in an instant.

Bhaktimata sat down on an 'otto' under a tamarind (ambli) tree, with Ghanshyam on her lap. The person, who was going to pierce Ghanshyam's ears, arrived with a silver needle. He gently held Ghanshyam's ear and slowly attempted to pierce the first ear with his needle. However, a bright light shone from Ghanshyam's ear and dazzled the man. He could not see Ghanshyam but only the strong bright light. Then Ghanshyam disappeared completely from Bhaktimata's lap and appeared to be sitting on the tamarind tree.

Seeing Ghanshyam on the tree, Bhaktimata asked Rampratapbhai to climb up the tree and bring Ghanshyam back down. Rampratapbhai climbed the tree but Ghanshyam disappeared from the tree and reappeared on His mother's lap again. Rampratapbhai climbed down but again saw Ghanshyam sitting on the tree. Frustratingly,

## **KALIDATTA'S DEATH**



As Ghanshyam and His friends played by the nearby trees, Kalidatta, an evil demon who wanted to kill Ghanshyam, took form of a child in an attempt to capture Ghanshyam. Kalidatta however soon realised that Ghanshyam had seen through his devious disguise, so he retreated from the group.

Kalidatta then brewed up a tremendous storm in a second attempt to capture Ghanshyam. The wind raged and rain fell so heavily that one could hardly see even a short distance ahead, trees were ripped out by a fierce whirlwind and thunder and lightning pierced the dark sky.

The children became very frightened and ran for shelter. Because of poor visibility, they could not see where others were. Ghanshyam sheltered from the storm under the protection of a tree. Kalidatta appeared on the tree in an attempt to break a branch so that it would fall on Ghanshyam. The branch however failed to hit Ghanshyam and it landed in such a way that it protected Ghanshyam from the vicious storm even more. Kalidatta became even more incensed upon seeing his failure and made another attempt on Ghanshyam's life. Ghanshyam looked at Kalidatta with His divine gaze. Kalidatta became so frightened that he started running here, there and everywhere trying to get away but could not go anywhere. He finally died, crushed by a tree felled by his own doing. The storm ceased, and Ghanshyam and His friends returned home to their waiting parents.



## **SURPRISE FOR THE BARBER**

Ghanshyam entered his third year. So His father Dharmadev thought that it was time to cut Ghanshyam's hair. The next day he decided an auspicious time for his hair-cutting and called Zamai the Barber to tonsure Ghanshyam.

Zamai gaily showed up with his kit. Bhaktimata took Ghanshyam in her lap and sat down facing the barber. Zamai wetted Ghanshyam's hair and first cut them with scissors. Then he got out a razor from his kit and started to shave Ghanshyam's head.



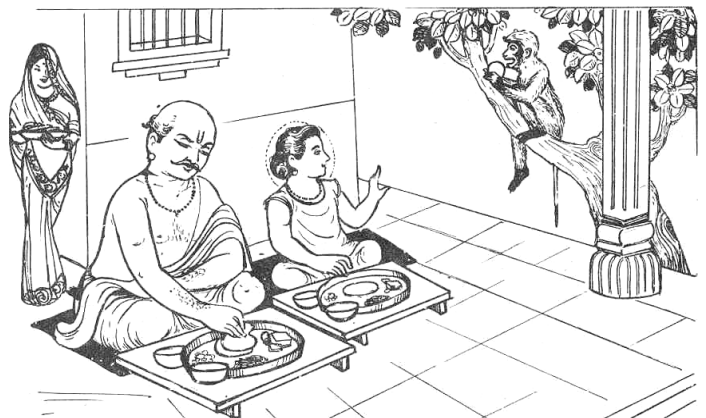
Ghanshyam disappeared from the barber's sight after half of His head had been shaved. The barber could not see Ghanshyam, while all the others could. So he became alarmed and his arms froze where they were. He got transfixed like an inanimate thing. Seeing this, Bhaktimata said, "Why did you stop your work? You have only shaved half of Ghanshyam's head, come on finish your job." The frightened Zamai replied in a trembling voice, "Whom do I shave? Ghanshyam is not here. Where did he go?" Hearing this Bhaktimata said surprised, "Why don't you see him? He is still sitting on my lap." "But I can't see him" Zamai replied. So, Bhaktimata understood Ghanshyam's Miracle and whispered to him, "Such half shaving will not make you attractive, my dear. Hence, let him finish shaving." "The razor struck my on my head" Ghanshyam complained.

Thereupon Bhaktimata said to the barber, "Take great care while shaving my dear son." Ghanshyam became visible to the barber, so he finished shaving. Ghanshyam then took a bath in Narayan Sarovar. The barber was convinced that this was extraordinary child. He felt himself lucky shaving Ghanshyam and went his way after bowing down to Him.

## **MONKEY IN A TRANCE**

Dharmadev and his family moved to Ayodhya and lived in a beautiful house on a street called Brahatta. Ghanshyam liked to play and tease monkeys on the street.

One day Ghanshyam was having dinner with Dharmadev, while Bhaktimata served food. A monkey sitting on a tree nearby saw Ghanshyam having his dinner. The monkey jumped down and quickly grabbed some chapattis from Ghanshyam's plate and jumped back up onto the tree.



The monkey sat on a branch and was about to bite into the chapatti when Ghanshyam looked at him. The monkey immediately went into a trance and sat still with his mouth open and the chapatti in his hand. For two days he sat there in Samadhi (trance). On the third day Dharmadev told Ghanshyam, "How many days will you make him sit like that? The monkey is a servant of Lord Ram. Let it be free." So Ghanshyam looked at the monkey again with divine eyes and brought the monkey out of the trance.

The monkey came down the tree and with folded hands sat quietly beside Ghanshyam. Ghanshyam blessed the monkey and gave him something to eat. The monkey then quickly climbed up the tree.

## **GHANSHYAM ON THE HEAD OF SHESHNAAG**



One day in Chhappaiya after feeding Ghanshyam, Bhaktimata went to do the cooking and left Him in the front garden with Balvantabai, her brother's daughter. While Balvantabai was not watching Ghanshyam playfully went towards the well and fell in. As Ghanshyam fell in, Sheshnaag, king of serpents had quickly risen to save Ghanshyam.

At that moment, Bhaktimata came out of the kitchen and looked around for Ghanshyam. Not seeing Him, she began to worry. A passer by told Bhaktimata, "Sister, I just saw Ghanshyam at the edge of the well. He may have fallen in." On hearing this Bhaktimata quickly ran to the well and looked in and saw Ghanshyam in the well. She started shouting and calling to the villagers to come to save her son.

Dharmadev and the neighbours came rushing to the well to have a look. As they looked in the well a bright dazzling light shone out of the well. They saw

Ghanshyam sitting on the head of the hooded serpent playing. All people watched in amazement. Sheshnaag was very happy as he got a chance to carry God on his head. He then lifted his head up and Bhaktimata picked up Ghanshyam and got Him out of the well.

This reminded Bhaktimata of Lord Shree Krishna dancing on the hood of defeated Kalinaag. Bhaktimata was happy to see Ghanshyam do a similar leela as Krishna Bhagwan.

## **PUNISHMENT TO THE MONKEYS**



One day Ghanshyam sat in the veranda eating puri and yoghurt. A naughty monkey came running and snatched a puri from Ghanshyam's hand, climbed and sat on a tree branch. Ghanshyam stretched his arm and caught the monkey by his tail and pulled him down. The monkey started screaming and yelling. A gang of other monkeys hearing the yells of their fellow monkey gathered in great numbers and surrounded Ghanshyam with the intention of hurting Him. Dharmadev saw this and thinking that the monkeys will kill

Ghanshyam went into the house to get a stick.

In that time Ghanshyam took as many forms as the number of monkeys and started to run after each monkey. The monkeys seeing so many forms of Ghanshyam got frightened. Ghanshyam caught the monkeys, some by their neck, some by their tails, some by their ears and legs and hurled them. Just then Dharmadev came with a stick and saw what was happening. The remaining monkeys ran away fearing for their life and Ghanshyam's many forms disappeared and He became one again. Dharmadev was very happy seeing this miracle and knew that Ghanshyam is not an ordinary child but God Himself.



## **THE GHOST WELL**

A nawab came to Ayodhya. The nawab had a reputation for kidnapping children and making the villagers suffer. Dharmadev became worried and decided to stay in another village called Tinva. They stayed with relatives, Prathit Pandey and his wife Vachnabai. Vachnabai became fond of Ghanshyam and used to prepare His favourite foods and Bhaktimata helped her with the household chores and fetch the water from the well. Vachnabai had told Bhaktimata, "Don't fetch water from the well after sunset. There are thousands of ghosts in the well. They will make you suffer if you do."

One evening there was no water in the house and the sun had just set. Without thinking Bhaktimata took a pot and went to the well to fill it up with water. She tied the rope on the pot and put it in the well. Before the pot reached the water the ghosts got hold of the pot. Bhaktimata started pulling the rope but the pot wouldn't come up so she looked into the well. She saw thousands of ghosts in the well and became frightened and started running home. When she entered the house Ghanshyam asked, "What happened mother? Why are you running? Where did you leave the pot?" Bhaktimata explained everything.



Next morning Ghanshyam went to jump in the well. All the villagers gathered and started saying "Ghanshyam, don't jump in. The ghosts in the well will eat you." Ghanshyam did not listen to anyone. Ghanshyam jumped into the well waking up all the ghosts who were fast asleep..

The ghosts tried to catch Ghanshyam but bright light emanated from Ghanshyam's body and started burning the ghosts.

The ghosts pleaded with Ghanshyam, "Please save us." Ghanshyam asked, "Why are you all here?" One ghost answered "When we were living we were really bad. We used to eat meat, drink beer, take drugs and tell lies. We had a big argument and fought with each other and ended up dying here. Because we were so bad we became ghost and since then we have lived in this well. You are God so please

forgive our sins and set us free."

Ghanshyam forgave all the ghosts and sent them to Badrikashram. From that day on there were no more ghosts in the well and people could go and fetch water whenever they wanted. The people of Tinva who witnessed this were in no doubt that Ghanshyam was God Himself.

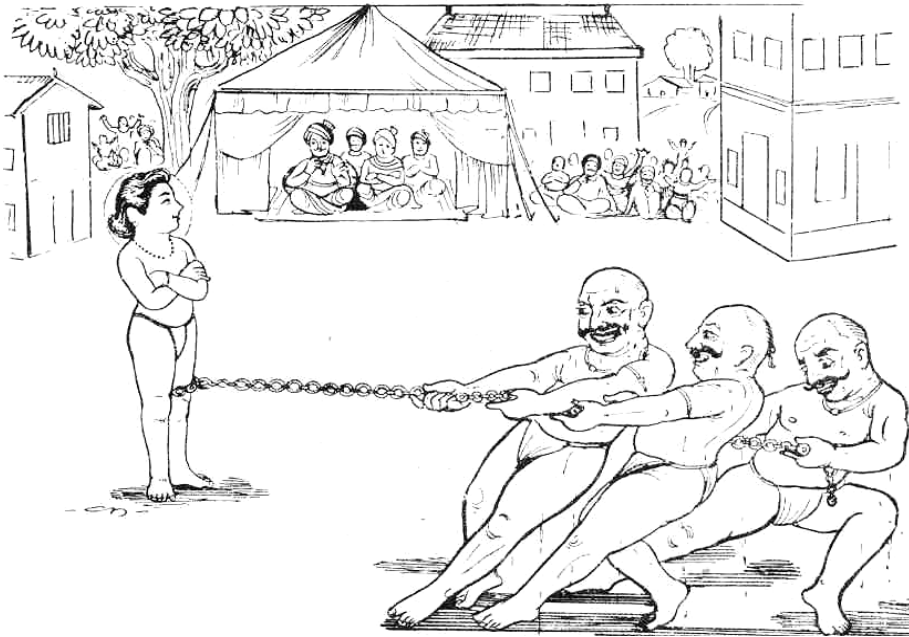
## **WRESTLERS EMBARRASMENT**

In Ayodhya Ghanshyam used to play wrestling with his friends. One day morning Ghanshyam was playing wrestling with his friend Kesarsang. At that time a wrestler from Nepal called Mahabali came there. Mahabali was tall and well built. He had fought and won over many other wrestlers. Seeing Ghanshyam playing wrestling Mahabali started laughing therefore Ghanshyam wrestled with him. He showed the strength of 10,000 elephants and won.

Everyone from the surrounding villages came to know about this and Ghanshyam became well known. The wrestlers of Ayodhya, Mansingh, Dilsingh and Bhimsingh who considered themselves the strongest wrestlers also came to know about Ghanshyam winning over Mahabali. They went to the King of Ayodhya Raidarshansingh and said "We want to wrestle with Ghanshyam." The king advised them, "Ghanshyam looks like a child but He is God. Nobody can win over God. You won't win over Him so forget about wrestling with Him."

The three wrestlers insisted so the King finally agreed. Arrangements were made for a wrestling match near Dharmadev's house and the King and his courtiers were present to see the match. As the arrangements were being made, Dharmadev became worried about the fate of Ghanshyam. Ghanshyam knew Dharmadev was worried so He said, "Don't worry father, nothing will happen to me." Saying so He assumed the form of a huge wrestler to reassure His father and after a little while returned to his normal form.

In the evening everyone gathered in the field. Dharmadev and Rampratapbhai came with Ghanshyam. The strongest of the three wrestlers Bhimsingh called on Ghanshyam to come to the wrestling ring. Bhimsingh tied a strong chain to his right foot and called on Ghanshyam to pull his leg. He said "My right leg is as strong as 100 elephants. If Ghanshyam pulls on the chain and manages to move my leg, I will consider him strong." Ghanshyam picked up the chain with his left hand and pulled it hard just once and the chain broke into two pieces and Bhimsingh fell against a tree.



Bhimsingh became annoyed and challenged Ghanshyam to tie the chain around His left leg and he would pull him down. Ghanshyam agreed and tied the chain to His left leg and stood still. Bhimsingh then pulled on the chain but try as he might he could not move Ghanshyam. The other two wrestlers joined Bhimsingh and the three of them pulled with all their might. They pulled and pulled but could not move Ghanshyam. Finally the chain broke and the three

wrestlers fell down and broke their bones. People who were gathered to watch the match laughed at the wrestlers.

The king stood up and declared Ghanshyam the winner and presented Him with gifts. The King asked the wrestlers to apologise to Ghanshyam. The wrestlers accepted defeat and asked for forgiveness. Ghanshyam forgave them and blessed them.



## **KHAMPA TALAVDI**

A little further away from Dharmadev's house there was a small forest. In the forest there was a lake surrounded by lush green grass and flower shrubs. Ghanshyam and his cowherd friends used to take their cows to graze in the forest. While the cows ate grass, they used play hide and seek, swing on the trees and have fun. The cowherds made garlands from roses and mogra flowers for Ghanshyam.

One evening Ghanshyam was standing near the lake. The cowherds had rounded up the cows and were directing them homewards. Ghanshyam called out to the cows in a loud voice so all the cows came running to Him and surrounded Him. The cowherds tried to get the cows to go home but they wouldn't move. Ghanshyam lovingly patted all the cows on their head and said, "Now go", so all the cows mooed and started returning home.

Ghanshyam then climbed on 'ambli' tree near the lake. When He was climbing down, He lost his footing, slipped and fell down onto the banks of the lake. A thorn (Khampo) had pierced his right thigh as he fell down and it was bleeding. All his friends got scared. One of Ghanshyam's friends, Sukhnandan went to call Dharmadev.

At that time all the Devas, Indra, Brahma, Vishnu Chandra, came down from the heaven. Indra called on the doctors of the Devas, Ashvinikumar who came and applied medicine and bandage on the wound. The Devas then bowed down to Ghanshyam and disappeared.

Just then Dharmadev arrived with Sukhnandan. He saw that there was a bandage on Ghanshyam's thigh so he asked, "Who applied the bandage?" Veniram replied, "The doctor of Devas Ashvinikumar came from the heavens and applied medicine and bandage." On hearing this Dharmadev was very happy. He carried Ghanshyam home on his shoulder.

Bhaktimata was worried and was waiting for Dharmadev to bring Ghanshyam back. As soon as she saw them she came running towards them and asked "Where did you get hurt Ghanshyam?" "I am not hurt" replied Ghanshyam and undid the bandage. To her amazement Bhaktimata could only see a small mark where the thorn had pierced the skin so she felt really happy.

Since then this lake has been known as Khampa Talavdi.



## **SACRED THREAD (JANOI) CEREMONY**

Ghanshyam was seven years old. Bhaktimata thought that it is time for the sacred thread (janoi) ceremony. Dharmadev called a brahmin named Harikrishna Upadhyay to tell them and auspicious time to conduct the ceremony. The Brahman said, "Somvar, Falgun sud dasham 1844 is an auspicious day." (Mon, 17 Mar 1788). Dharmadev started making the preparation for the ceremony. He invited all his relatives, sadhus and brahmins. The whole house and street was decorated with motifs of birds and plants and rangolis. A yagna kund was prepared in the courtyard.

Early in the morning on the day of the ceremony Dharmadev's house was full with ladies singing songs and Harikrishna and other brahmins chanting the mantra while performing the yagna. Rambali, the barber, was called to shave Ghanshyam's head. After this Ghanshyam had a bath and dressed in a yellow shawl ready for the ceremony. Ghanshyam came to the mandap and bowed down to His father. At this time, all the deities came to the skies, and showered flowers on the mandap. Ghanshyam then took the gurumantra . He put on the clothes of a brahamchari, went to His parents, asked for alms and gave them to the priests. After this, Ghanshyam was given the janoi.

Ghanshyam now took the form of a small saint and started running towards the city centre. Ghanshyam and His maternal uncle Vishrambhai led the group followed by His parents and the rest. On reaching the town centre, everyone stood facing the North. Everyone thought that Ghanshyam would run, but His uncle would get hold of Him. But Ghanshyam thought "I am on earth to save the souls of the world so I better run to the Himalayas and from there go for pilgrimage to the various places". Vishrambhai followed Him but could not get hold of Him. Finally, he got exhausted and pleaded to Ghanshyam, "Ghanshyam come back to save my prestige. If You go away, who will look after Your parents?"

Ghanshyam thought that it wasn't right to leave His innocent parents, so He turned back. Vishrambhai carried Him on his back and brought Him to the mandap. He gave Ghanshyam, five rupees. Ghanshyam gave the money to His father, bowed down to everyone and sat with His mother and had His meal. Dharmadev fed all the Brahmins, gave them alms and bade farewell. The whole of Ayodhya was served with sweets. The skies were filled with echoes of hails of praises for Ghanshyam and Dharmadev.





## **GHANSHYAM BRINGS FISH BACK TO LIFE**

One summer's day Ghanshyam was playing with His friends Prayag, Madhav and Veniram by the banks of a lake near Chhappaiya. They saw a dark, tall and stout fisherman catching fish and putting them in a basket. Seeing the fishes dying Ghanshyam became very upset. He decided to bring the fish back to life and punish the fisherman. Ghanshyam looked at the fish with His divine eyes and immediately all the fish jumped into the water and swam away. The fisherman saw this and became very angry and started shouting at Ghanshyam.



In response Ghanshyam showed himself as Yamraj to the fisherman. He showed him the consequences of his actions and the suffering he would endure in hell for his sins. Seeing all this, the fisherman became frightened and pleaded with Ghanshyam saying, he was doing it for his livelihood. In reply Ghanshyam told him that there are many ways to earn a living, which don't involve killing or violence. The fisherman promised not to kill any more fish. Ghanshyam blessed the fisherman and redeemed him of his sins. From that day the lake became known as 'Meen Sarovar'

Ghanshyam taught that one should not kill living things even to earn a living.

## **JAMBU LEELA**

Once Ghanshyam and His friends along with Ramprataphai had gone to a village called Pirojpur, not far from Chhappaiya. In Pirojpur there was a tree orchard with many jambu trees. People were picking jambus to eat as many as they could and take some home. Ghanshyam, His friends and Ramprataphai also joined them. Everyone stayed on the ground but Ghanshyam quickly climbed the tree and started shaking it with His foot. All the jambus ripe and unripe ones started falling.

Just then the tree keeper arrived and seeing him all of Ghanshyam's friends and Ramprataphai ran away from there and went home. The tree keeper saw Ghanshyam on the tree and in anger said, "You have eaten my Jambu fruits and have wasted so many by making them all fall."



The tree keeper raised his hand to hit Ghanshyam so Ghanshyam started running away. The tree keeper caught up with Ghanshyam and held His hand. Ghanshyam pulled His hand so hard that the tree keeper was lifted off the ground and fell down. His hand and shoulder hurt so much that he cried in pain.

Ghanshyam went home. A little later the tree keeper came to Dharmadev to complain that Ghanshyam had hurt his shoulder. Dharmadev said, "How can a little boy like Ghanshyam hurt your hand?" Ghanshyam lifted the tree keeper's hand and asked, "Where is it hurting?" The tree keeper was amazed that his hand was relieved of pain and asked Ghanshyam for forgiveness. Ghanshyam blessed him and he went home happy.

## **SWEETS FOR A RING**

One day Suvasini bhabhi was cooking in the kitchen. She had taken her ring off and placed it on a nearby shelf. Ghanshyam went to the kitchen feeling very hungry and asked His Bhabhi for some food. Bhabhi asked him to wait but Ghanshyam was very hungry and could not wait. He saw the ring on the shelf and thought of exchanging it for some food.

Without His Bhabhi noticing He picked up the ring and left the house for the local sweet makers shop. He bargained with the sweet maker to exchange 'sweets for a ring'. The cunning sweet maker looked at the expensive ring and thought, "how much can this child possible eat" so he agreed that Ghanshyam could eat as much as He wanted in exchange for the ring.

Ghanshyam sat down to eat and the sweet maker brought out the sweets. Ghanshyam ate the first plate full really quickly and requested the sweet maker to bring him another plate full. The sweet maker was surprised at how much this small boy could eat. Ghanshyam finished plate after plate until there were no more sweets left in the shop. The sweet maker was relieved when Ghanshyam left the shop and went home.



As He walked in at home there was a hectic search for the ring. Bhabhi asked him, "Have you seen the ring that I put on this shelf?" "No. I haven't seen it." He replied. However, Ichharam approached Dharmadev and told him that he had seen Ghanshyam take the ring. Ghanshyam told them what had happened and that the sweet maker had the ring.

They all went to the sweet makers shop to ask him to give the ring back. The sweet maker replied, "I haven't taken the ring, I gave Ghanshyam sweets in exchange." All looked at Ghanshyam who said, "I haven't eaten any sweets." The sweet maker called Ghanshyam a liar, "look! My shop is empty." As he turned and pointed at the shop, he found that the shelves were full of delicious sweets. He gazed in astonishment and could not believe what he saw. He felt really embarrassed but he apologized to Dharmadev and Bhaktimata and returned the ring. They returned home leaving the sweet maker thinking, 'That was no ordinary child.'

**Ghanshyam taught that we should not be greedy and take advantage of others for one's own benefit.**



## **COMPASSIONATE GHANSHYAM**



Dharmadev had a small farm where he used to grow fruits and vegetable. Rampratapbhai and Ghanshyam had grown many jack-fruits there with great care.

One day two thieves saw the jack-fruits and decided to steal some. At night they entered the garden and climbed on the jack-fruit tree. But Surprise! As soon as they attempted to pluck the fruit their hands became stuck to the jack-fruit. Despite attempts to free themselves they just could not. They tried all night. Soon it was dawn.

Dharmadev came there with Rampratapbhai and Ghanshyam. The thieves were frightened and started trying even harder to free themselves. On seeing the thieves trying to steal Rampratapbhai ran towards them with a stick to punish them but Ghanshyam stopped him.

The thieves cried and asked for forgiveness. Ghanshyam took mercy on them and looked at them compassionately. Immediately the thieves' hands became unstuck from the jack-fruit tree and they became free. Both the thieves came down and bowed down to Ghanshyam, Dharmadev and Rampratapbhai.

Ghanshyam advised them never to steal again since stealing is a great sin. Then He gave each of the thieves on jack-fruit each and sent them away. Such was Ghanshyam! He was compassionate even towards thieves.

## **GHANSHYAM SEEN IN MANY FORMS**

In Ayodhya Ghanshyam would visit mandirs everyday. He would listen to the katha with great devotion. One day Ghanshyam has gone to the temple, it got very late but still He had not returned home. Bhaktimata became very worried as it was getting late. She asked Rampratapbhai to go and look for Ghanshyam and bring him home quickly.

Rampratapbhai visited Hanuman Gadhi and found Ghanshyam listening to Ram katha. Rampratapbhai told him it was getting late so he should come home. Ghanshyam pleaded with Rampratapbhai, "Why don't you visit the other mandir and by the time you return the katha will be finished then we can go home".

So Rampratapbhai visited another mandir, Kanakbhavan. To his astonishment he saw Ghanshyam there too! "When did he come here?" he asked the other bhaktas. "Since the katha began", they said.

Rampratapbhai visited all the temples in Ayodhya and he saw Ghanshyam listening to katha in every one of them. He was surprised by this miracle.

He decided to return to Hanuman Gadhi. As expected he found Ghanshyam there. The katha ended and Ghanshyam stood up and said "Motabhai let's go home".

Both brothers quickly walked home. At home, Rampratapbhai told Bhaktimata and Dharmadev about seeing Ghanshyam in all the mandirs in Ayodhya. All three realised that Ghanshyam is a divine personality. He is God Himself.

## **A NEW SET OF TEETH**

One day Ghanshyam went to Suvasini bhabhi and complained, "Bhabhi, one of my molar teeth hurts a lot. I can't even chew chapattis. Please make me some shiro." Suvasini bhabhi willingly agreed and the shiro was ready in no time.

Suvasini bhabhi called everyone to eat. She gave Dharmadev, Rampratapbhai and young Ichharam chapattis and gave Ghanshyam the shiro that she had specially prepared for Him. Ghanshyam shared some of His shiro with His younger brother Ichharam. Having barely eaten even two morsels of shiro, Ghanshyam got up, washed His hands and went outside. Seeing this, Suvasini bhabhi came out after Him. "What's wrong? Is your tooth hurting you a lot?" she enquired.

"Yes, it hurts a lot. It is loose and wobbling a lot too. Please pull it out," said Ghanshyam, opening His mouth for His bhabhi. Suvasini bhabhi checked the tooth; it was very loose so she pulled at it and had it out within no time.

Just then, Ghanshyam pointed out a second tooth, "This one hurts too. It's a bit loose as well; please pull it out." Suvasini bhabhi complied. But then Ghanshyam pointed to a third, then a fourth.... with His godly powers, Ghanshyam made all of His teeth loose and in this way had all His teeth pulled out one by one. Before she knew it, Suvasini bhabhi had pulled out all of Ghanshyam's teeth.

Seeing Ghanshyam's toothless mouth, Suvasini bhabhi became worried and frightened. She called Bhaktimata, who then came quickly. Suvasini bhabhi explained what happened and said that Ghanshyam won't be able to eat anything now!"

Seeing the collection of teeth that had been pulled out, Bhaktimata became worried too. Fearing the worst, she requested Ghanshyam to open His mouth. Ghanshyam opened His mouth, but to Bhaktimata and Suvasini bhabhi's astonishment, Ghanshyam had a completely new set of teeth!

Ghanshyam immediately picked up all the teeth that had been pulled out and held them in His fist. Suvasini bhabhi asked Him to let her see them. Ghanshyam opened His fist, and there were pearls instead of teeth! Ghanshyam lifted His hand high, and the divine swans from Maansarovar came flying to Ghanshyam and one by one, took a pearl each in their beaks from Ghanshyam's hand and flew off.





## **PROTECTION OF THE MAHAVAT**



There lived a rich man by the name of Baldev who kept an elephant. He employed a mahavat (elephant trainer) to look after the elephant. The mahavat used to steal mithai (sweets) which were meant to feed the elephant. The elephant used to watch this everyday. One day the elephant became annoyed. That afternoon the Mahavat took the elephant to a lake to bathe. He led the elephant into the lake and started washing him. The elephant picked the mahavat up with his trunk and lifted him to bash him down into the water.

At that time Dharmadev was passing by with Ghanshyam. Ghanshyam saw what was happening and felt pity for the mahavat. Immediately He took another form and calmed the elephant down and got him to release the mahavat. Ghanshyam climbed onto the elephant's back and lead him out of the water. When the elephant was out of the water, Ghanshyam's other form disappeared. All the people standing at the lake side had seen this miracle. The elephant had become obedient again. Ghanshyam sat on the elephant and rode him home.

The mahavat asked for forgiveness from Ghanshyam and said, "You saved me from the elephant's fury today. If you hadn't then I would be dead. From now on I will never steal sweets from the elephant's share." Ghanshyam blessed him and went to His house.

Ghanshyam taught that you must not steal.

## **THE MILK OF GOMATI COW**

Dharmadev had a cow named Gomati. Ghanshyam loved her very much and she also loved Ghanshyam. Gomati used to give four pints of milk each time daily. So His sister-in-law Suvasini bhabhi used to serve a glass full of milk to all the members of the household. Ghanshyam loved drinking milk.



Once Suvasini bhabhi served big glasses full of milk to the others but to Ghanshyam she gave a small cup thinking He was young and did not need a big glass. Ghanshyam did not complain. In the evening Suvasini bhabhi went to milk Gomati cow, Gomati gave only half the quantity of milk that she used to give.

It was evening at supertime Suvasini bhabhi gave each one of them half of what she gave in the morning. Ghanshyam did get milk but only a small glass half full! Again Ghanshyam said nothing. He finished the supper silently. The next morning Suvasini bhabhi began to milk the cow. This time she got only one fourth of the regular quantity and no matter what she tried Gomati would not give any more milk. Bhabhi did not understand the cause of it so she went to Bhaktimata and said, "Mother, How is it so? Why does the cow not give as much milk as she used to give?"

Bhaktimata smiled and said, "Why do you serve Ghanshyam less milk? Give him as much as you give to others." "I will do accordingly," said Suvasini bhabhi. That evening the cow gave full quantity of four pints!

Ghanshyam taught that everyone must be treated equally.

## GOMATI GAYI

Gomati Gayi Gomati Gayi  
Have you any milk  
Yes sir, yes sir, three glasses full

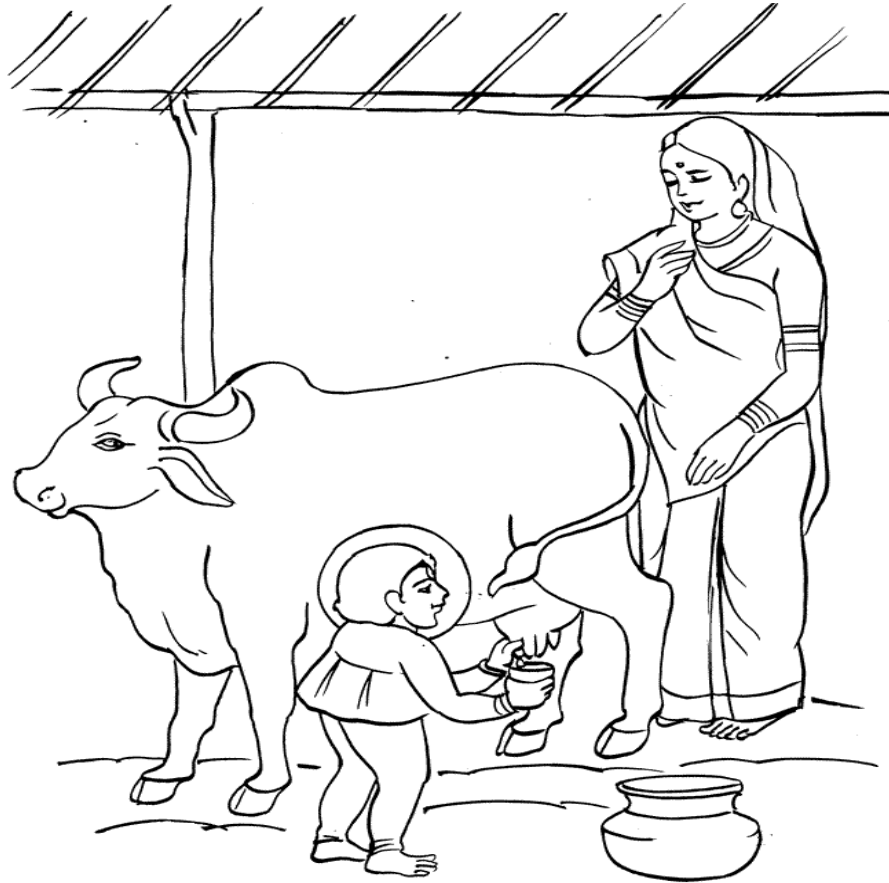
One for Dharmadev, one for Bhaktimata  
One for Ghanshyam Maharaj who lives in my heart

Gomati Gayi Gomati Gayi  
Have you any milk  
Yes sir, yes sir, three glasses full

One for Rampratap, one for Ichharam  
One for Ghanshyam Maharaj who lives in my heart

Gomati Gayi Gomati Gayi  
Have you any milk  
Yes sir, yes sir, three glasses full

One for Veniram, one for Prayag  
One for Ghanshyam Maharaj who lives in my heart



Sing the words above to the tune of " baa baa black sheep"



## **GHANSHYAM LEAVES HOME**



After Bhaktimata and Dharmadev had died and gone to Akshardham , Ghanshyam and Ichharam were being cared for by their elder brother Rampratapbhai and bhabhi Suvasinibai.

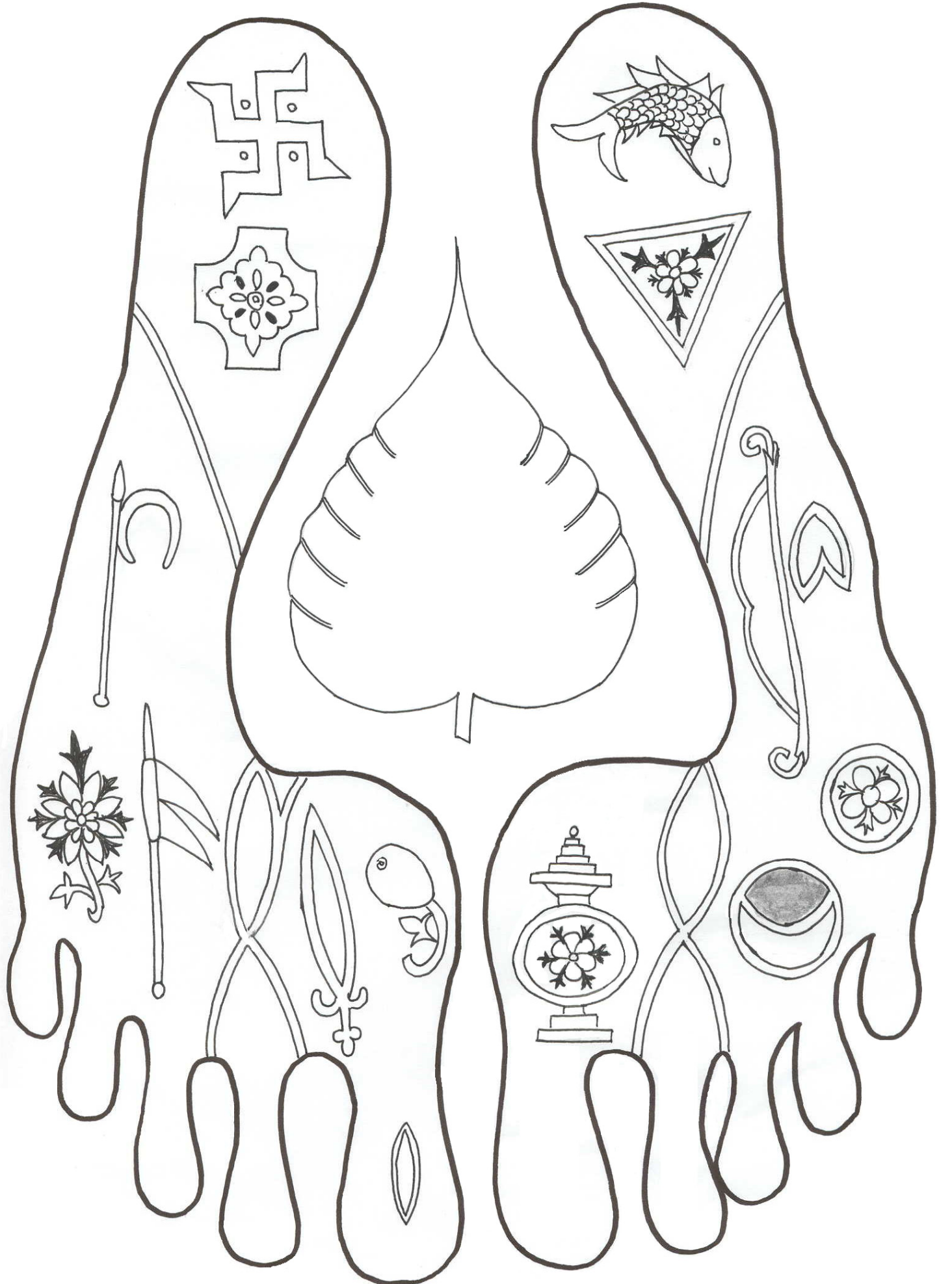
One day Ghanshyam was returning home after the 'darshan' of Rama-Janma-Bhoomi temple. Some wrestlers stopped him on the way and said, "We will have a fight and either you win us or we win over you". "I don't want to fight with anyone," said Ghanshyam. "But we want to fight, come on," continued the wrestlers. Ghanshyam had no other alternative but to fight so He fought and defeated them before returning home. The wrestlers' parents came to Rampratapbhai to complain, "Ghanshyam beat our sons without their fault. How can we tolerate it?"

Rampratapbhai thought "Ghanshyam's actions bring so many complaints what can I do?" Ghanshyam knew what His elder brother Rampratapbhai was thinking so He said, "My dear elder brother, hence forth you will have no complaints about me." Ghanshyam now had an excuse to leave home and so He made the preparations to leave without anyone knowing.

The next morning Ghanshyam got up early and left the house in a dress of celibate [Brahmachari]. He was wearing just a waistcloth a loincloth and deerskin. In one hand He held a dand (staff) and in the other a mala, kamandal, cloth to filter water with, Bhikshapatra and on the shoulder was a yagnopavit. Around His neck was tied a double necklace of Tulsi, a Gutkho in which were the central idea of various scriptures. Also a wallet of Balmukund and Shaligram were hanging around the neck. On the forehead was an Urdhvatripund (tilak).

He proceeded towards the Saryu Ganga until He came to Rama Ghat of the river. He was thinking of jumping into the river. Kushidatta, who had been the wicked companion of Kalidatta saw him there and to take revenge for the death of Kalidatta, He stealthily came behind Ghanshyam and gave a strong push. Ghanshyam fell down into the running water of the river. The wicked Kausidatta thought that Ghanshyam was drowned but Ghanshyam swam to safety and began His pilgrimage. Ghanshyam **left home at the age of only 11 years, 3 months and 1 day.**

**Nilkanth** as He is known during His teenage years walked barefooted and travelled through dense jungles and icy mountains for **7 years, 1 month and 11 days**. His journey ended when He arrived in Loj and settled in the ashrama of Ramanand Swami.



## CHINH DARSHAN



Ashtakon

Ghanshyam Ghanshyam I bow down to you  
Give me 'darshan' of 'Chinh' on your feet

Asthakon, Urdhva-rekha, Swastik, Jambu,  
I see these on your right foot  
Java, Vajra, Ankush, Dhawaj, Kamal  
These also I see on your right foot



Trikon



Gaupad



Urdhva-rekha

Ghanshyam Ghanshyam I bow down to you  
Give me 'darshan' of 'Chinh' on your feet



Swastik

Trikon, Kalash, Gaupad, Dhanushya  
I see these on your left foot  
Matsya, Ardha-chandra and Vyoma  
These also I see on your left foot



Dhanushya



Jambu

Ghanshyam Ghanshyam I bow down to you  
Give me 'darshan' of 'Chinh' on your feet

Nine 'Chinh' on your right  
seven on your left  
I had 'darshan' of all sixteen



Kalash



Jav



Matsya



Vajra



Ankush



Dhawaj



Kamal



Ardha-Chandra



Vyoma

*Learn about the 'Chinh' on Swaminarayan Bhagwan's feet by singing the words above to the tune of "baa baa black sheep"*



## કોડે કોડે એકાદશી કીજીએ રે - Kode Kode Ekadashi kijiye re



Once Bhagwan Narayan was resting. A demon named Murdanav came and challenged Him to a fight. Suddenly a damsel appeared, evolved out of the Ekadash (eleven) indriyas (sense organs) of God. Five karma indriyas, Five gnan indriyas and the 11<sup>th</sup> mind are collectively known as Ekadash indriyas.

Murdanav was so attracted to this damsel that he asked her to marry him. The damsel agreed, but only if he agreed to a duel with her, "Whoever shall defeat me shall marry me." Blinded by passion, he fought with her. The damsel killed him. Pleased with her, God granted her a boon. She asked, "O Prabhu! As I have manifested from your Ekadash indriyas, let my name be Ekadashi. I am wedded to tapa (austerity) and I desire that people should observe the Ekadashi vrat (fast) and control their Ekadash indriyas on this day".

Bhagwan Narayan agreed and ever since, Hindus fast on the eleventh day of sud (shukla) paksha and vad paksha of the lunar month.

(Vachmamrut Gad II, 8.)

On Ekadashi day we should observe a fast. If we are not able to fast then we can drink milk and eat all kind of fruits, certain vegetables and farari foods only. We refrain from eating things like sweets, chocolates, crisps which are not home made. We should remember God at all times and ask him to give us strength to observe a fast.



કોડે કોડે એકાદશી કીજીએ રે, એવું વ્રત જાવા નવ દીજીએ રે.

**Kode kode ekadashi kijiye re,  
evu vrata java nava dijiye re.**

કોડે... ... ૧

**kode... ...1**

એવું વ્રત કરે તે ધન્ય માનવી રે, તેતો નાહ્યો કોટીકવર જાનવી રે.

**Evu vrata kare te dhanya manvi re,  
teto nahyo kotikvara janvi re.**

કોડે... ... ૨

**kode... ... 2**

જેણે વચન પ્રમાણે વ્રત આદર્યું રે, તેને કારજ પોતાનું સરવે કર્યું રે.

**Jene vachan pramane vrata adaryu re,  
tene karaj potanu sarve karyu re.**

કોડે... ... ૩

**kode... ... 3**

એનો મહિમા મુનિવર ગાય છે રે, અવિનાશી મળ્યાનો ઉપાય છે રે.

**Eno mahima munivar gaye chhe re,  
avinashi malyano upay chhe re.**

કોડે... ... ૪

**kode... ... 4**

બ્રહ્માનંદ કહે એમાં હરિ રહ્યા વસીરે, કીધી ઉદ્ધવ પ્રમાણે એકાદશી રે.

**Brahmanand kahe ema hari rahya vasi re,  
kidhi uddhav pramane ekadashi re.**

કોડે... ... ૫

**kode... ...5**

## જુલોને વ્હાલા હીંડોળે - Jhulone vhalahindole

The hindola festival became the focus of devotion to experience the divine joy of rocking the mighty Lord in a small swing, ever since the Gopis rocked Lord Krishna on a decorated swing in the streets of Vrundavan 5000 years ago.

Even Lord Swaminarayan was revered and entertained by the devotees through their devotion. Once in Vadtal, a decorative hindolo was tied to a couple of mango trees, and the devotees rocked the Lord to and fro. In response to their devotion, the Lord, while standing in the hindola, appeared in twelve divine forms and blessed the devotees. History also reveals that Lord Swaminarayan often sat on a swing tied between two tamarind trees at Laxmivadi in Gadhada.

Today, in memory of the Lord's divine sports, the hindola festival is celebrated with joy and enthusiasm at all Swaminarayan mandirs. Sadhus and devotees make hindolas of a variety of colours, shapes and forms. The hindolas are made of vegetables, leaves, flowers, sequins, fruits, dry fruits, beans, rakhis, chocolates, steel dishes and cups, etc.



જુલોને વ્હાલા હીંડોળે, જુલોને વ્હાલો. ... ૧

**Jhulone vhalahindole, jhulone vhalah. ...1**

રત્ન હીંડોળે રાજ બિરાજે, નટવર નંદલાલા. હીંડોળે... ૨

**Ratna hindole raj biraje, natvar nandlala.  
Hindole ... 2**

હેતે જુલાવું ગાવું ગુણગાન, ગોવિંદ ગોપાળા. હીંડોળે... ૩

**Hete jhulavu gavu gungana, Govind Gopala.  
Hindole ... 3**

નેણાં ભરીને નિરખું ચંચળ, ચિતવણીના ચાળા. હીંડોળે... ૪

**Nena bharine nirakhu chanchal, chitavanina chala.  
Hindole ... 4**

પ્રેમાનંદના નાથ પહેરાવું, મોતીની માળા. હીંડોળે... ૫

**Premanandna nath pahevavu, motini mala.  
Hindole... 5**



## નમન હું કરું વિશ્વપાળને – Naman hu kaaru Vishwapal ne

નમન હું કરું વિશ્વપાળને, કરગરી કહું ભક્તિબાળને  
અરજ માહરી ઉરમાં ધરો, વિપત્તિ માહરી શ્રીહરિ હરો

**Naman hu karoo Vishvapal ne, kargari kahu Bhaktibaal ne  
Araj mahari oorma dharo, vipati mahari Shree Hari haro**

I bow down to the sustainer of the universe, plead with folded palms, I ask the son of Bhaktimata  
Hold my prayers in your heart Shri Hari and destroy my troubles

અવર આસરો માહરે નથી, સર્વ જાણને શું કહું કથી  
કઠણ કાળમાં આપ છો ધણી, સુખદ શામળા મુક્તના મણી

**Avar aashro mahare nathi, sarva jaan ne shuu kahu kathi  
Kathan kaal ma aap chho dhani, sukhad syamda muktna mani**

I do not desire anything but you Almighty, what more can I say to knower of everything  
In difficult times you are my master, giver of happiness and a jewel among all saints

અમરના પતિ આશ તાહરી, રસિક રાખજો લાજ માહરી  
પ્રાણત પાળ છો સર્વના પ્રભુ, દીનદયાળ છો વિશ્વના વિભુ

**Amar na patti aash tahri, rasika rakhjo laaj mahri  
Pranat paal chho sarvana prabhu, dindayal chho vishvana vibhu**

I rely on you oh Lord of all immortals, dear Lord help to maintain my character  
You are Sustainer of all life and everyone's Lord, compassionate and creator of all worlds

વિમળ મૂર્તિ ઉરમાં વસો, નજરથી પ્રભુ દુર ન થશો  
અધિક ત્રાસને તોડી નાખજો, નારાયણ દાસને પાસ રાખજો

**Vimal murti oorma vaso, najarthi prabhu dur na thasho  
Aadhik trasane todi nakhjo, Narayandas ne paas rakhjo**

Reside in my heart in your pure form; never go far away from my gaze  
Break the immense fear of life and death; always keep me near you oh Lord





## અમી ભરેલી નજર રાખો - Ammi Bhareli Naajaru Rakho

અમી ભરેલી નજર રાખો, નારાયણમુનિ દેવ રે  
દરશન આપો દુખડા કાપો, (૨) નારાયણમુનિ દેવ રે

**Ammi bhareli naajru rakho, Narayan Muni Dev re,  
Darshan aapo dukhda kapo, (2) Narayan Muni Dev re**

ચરણ કમલમાં શીશ નમાવી, વંદન કરુ મહારાજ રે,  
દરશન આપો દુખડા કાપો (૨)

નારાયણ મુનિ ..૧

**Charan kamalma shish namaavi, vandan karu Maharaj re,  
Daya kari ne bhakti dejo (2)**

**Narayan Muni ..1**

હું દુખીયારો તારે દ્વારે, આવી ઊભો મહારાજ રે,  
આશીશ દેજો ઉરમાં લેજો (૨)

નારાયણ મુનિ ..૨

**Hu dukhiyaro tare dvaare, aavi ubho Maharaj re,  
Aashish dejo urma lejo (2)**

**Narayan Muni ..2**

તારે ભરોસે જીવન નૈયા હાંકી રહ્યો મહારાજ રે,  
બની સુકાની પાર ઉતારો (૨)

નારાયણ મુનિ ..૩

**Taare bharose jivan naiyya, haaki rahyo Maharaj re,  
Bani sukaani paar uttaro (2)**

**Narayan Muni ..3**

બાલ તમારો કરે વિનંતી સાંભળજોને મહારાજ રે,  
મુજ અંતરમાં વાસ કરોને (૨)

નારાયણ મુનિ ..૪

**Baal tamaro kare vinanti sambhal jo ne Maharaj re,  
Muj antarma vaas karone (2)**

**Narayan Muni ..4**



## શ્રીજી માહારાજ માંગુ શરણ તમારું-Shreeji Maharaj Mangu Sharan tamaru

શ્રીજી માહારાજ માંગુ શરણ તમારું,  
શરણ તમારું માંગુ શરણ તમારું

શ્રીજી ..

**Shreeji Maharaj maagu sharan tamaru,  
Sharan tamaru mangu sharan tamaru**

**Shreeji ..**

અખંડ છતાં મુરારી, આપે થયા અવતારી,  
મનુષ્ય લીલા બતાવી ગુણ શા ઉચ્ચારું

શ્રીજી ..૧

**Akhanda chhata murari, aape thaya avatari,  
Manushya lila batavi, guun sha ucharu**

**Shreeji ..1**

પ્રગટ પ્રભુ પીછાન્યા, ધન્ય ભાગ્ય મારા,  
મળ્યા સહજાનંદ સ્વામી અર્ધમ ઉદ્ધાર્યા

શ્રીજી ..૨

**Pragat prabhu pichhanya, dhanya bhagya mara,  
Malya Sahajanand Swami, adhrama udharya**

**Shreeji ..2**

રામ રૂપે રાવણ માર્યો, કૃષ્ણ રૂપે કંસ સંહાર્યો,  
નારાયણનું નામ જ લેતા અજમેળ તાર્યો

શ્રીજી ..૩

**Ram rupe Ravana maryo Krushna rupe Kansa saharyo,  
Narayan nu namaj leta Ajamil taaryo**

**Shreeji ..3**

ગઢડું ગોકુળ સમ કીધું, ઘેલા નીર પ્રેમે પીધું,  
ઠાઠા ખાચરને દીધું, મોક્ષ પદ પ્યારું

શ્રીજી ..૪

**Ghadhadu Gokul sama kidhu, Ghela nir preme pidhu,  
Dada Khacharne didhu, moksha pada pyaru**

**Shreeji ..4**

ભગવત સુત કહે છે પ્રીતે, પ્રભુ ભજો રૂડી રીતે,  
ભવજળ તરવાનું, નાવ છે આ સારું

શ્રીજી ..૫

**Bhagwat sut kahe chhe prite, prabhu bhajo rudi rite,  
Bhavajaad taravanu, naav chhe aah saru**

**Shreeji ..5**



## સ્નેહ ભર્યા નયણે નિહારતા હો - Sheha Bhariya Nayane nhIarta ho

સ્નેહ ભર્યા નયણે નિહારતા હો, વંદન આનંદ ઘનશ્યામને,  
અમિમય દ્રષ્ટિએ નિહારતા હો, વંદન આનંદ ઘનશ્યામને

**Sneh Bhariya nayane nhIarta ho, vaandan anand Ghanshyam ne,  
Amimaya dhrastiye nhIarta ho, vandan anand Ghanshyam ne**

છપૈયા પુરમાં વ્હાલો, આપે પ્રગટ થયા,  
ધર્મ ભક્તિને ઘેર આનંદ ઉત્સવ થયા,  
સંતોને આનંદ ઉપજાવતા હો, વંદન આનંદ ઘનશ્યામને

સ્નેહ ..૧

**Chhappaiya purma vahalo, aape pragat thaiya,  
Dharma Bhakti ne gher, anand utsav thaiya,  
Santo ne anand upjaavta ho, vandan anand Ghanshyam ne**

**Sneha ..1**

બાલ ચરીત્ર કરી, આપે વન વિચર્યા  
તીર્થો માંહી ફરી, જીવો પાવન કર્યા,  
નીલકંઠ નામ ધરાવતા હો, વંદન આનંદ ઘનશ્યામને

સ્નેહ ..૨

**Bal charitra kari, aape van vicharya,  
Tirtho maahi fari, jeevo pavan karya,  
Nilkanth naam dharavta ho, vandan anand Ghanshyam ne**

**Sneha ..2**

વલ્કલ વસ્ત્ર ધરી, પૂલહાશ્રમે રહ્યા,  
ભ્રમ્ રૂપ તેજ કરી, મોટા યોગી થયા,  
નિજ સ્વરૂપ સમજાવતા હો, વંદન આનંદ ઘનશ્યામને

સ્નેહ ..૩

**Valkal vastra dhari, poolashrame rahya,  
Brahmroop tej kari, mota yogi thaiya,  
Nij swaroop samjavta Ho, vandan anand Ghanshyam ne**

**Sneha ..3**

લોજપુર ધામ રહી, સરયૂદાસ કહાવિયા,  
સર્વોપરી જ્ઞાન કહી, સંતોને રીઝાવિયા,  
મુક્તાનંદ પ્રેમ થકી પૂજતા હો, વંદન આનંદ ઘનશ્યામને

સ્નેહ ..૪

**Lojpur dhaam rahi, Saryudas khaviya,  
Sarvopari gnaan kahi, santo ne rizhaaviya,  
Muktanand prem thaki poojta ho, vandan anand Ghanshyam ne**

**Sneha ..4**



## શ્રીજી અને સહુ સંતો રે, - Shreeji ane sahu Santo re

શ્રીજી અને સહુ સંતો રે, મળી કરજો મારી સહાય;  
હું છું તમારે શરણે રે, પુરુષોત્તમ લાગુ પાય

**Shreeji ane sahu santo re mali karjo mari sahaya,  
Hu chhu tamare sharane re Purshottam lagoo paye**

હું અનંત ભવમાં ભટકયો, આવી અહીંયરે અટકયો;  
ખરી રીતે રાખી ખટકો, છોગાળા કરજો છૂટકો રે, પુરુષોત્તમ લાગુ પાય

શ્રીજી ..૧

**Hu anant bhavama bhatakyo, aavi ahiyare atakyo,  
Khari reete rakhi khatko, choggada karjo chuttko re  
Purshottam lagoo paye**

Shreeji ..1

નથી ગયો હું ગંગા કાશી, તેણે અંતર નથી ઉઠારી  
નક્કી અક્ષરધામ નિવાસી, મેં ઓળખિયા અવિનાશી રે, પુરુષોત્તમ લાગુ પાય

શ્રીજી ..૨

**Nathi gayo hu Ganga Kashi, tene antar naathi udasi,  
Naakki Akshardham nivasi, meh odkhiya aavinashi re  
Purshottam lagoo paye**

Shreeji ..2

મુને મળ્યા સહજાનંદ સ્વામિ, ભાંગી જન્મો જન્મની ખામી  
નારાયણ છો બહુનામી, ઉગારો અંતર્યામી રે, પુરુષોત્તમ લાગુ પાય

શ્રીજી ..૩

**Mune Malya Sahajanand Swami, bhangi janamo janamni khami,  
Narayan chho bahunami, ugaro antaryami re  
Purshottam lagoo paye**

Shreeji ..3

પ્રભુ પૂરણ પ્રજાળી પાપો, સ્થિર અક્ષરધામે સ્થાપો  
કહે માવદાન દુઃખ કાપો, અમને અક્ષય સુખ આપો રે, પુરુષોત્તમ લાગુ પાય

શ્રીજી ..૪

**Prabhu puran prajadi paapo, shthir Akshardhame sthapo,  
Kahe Mavdanand dukh kapo, amane akshaye sukh aapo re  
Purshottam lagoo paye**

Shreeji ..4



## તારી એક એક પલ જાય લાખની- Tari ek ek paal jaaye lakhni

તારી એક એક પલ જાય લાખની, તું તો માળા રે જપી લે ઘનશ્યામની (૨)

**Tari ek ek paal jaaye lakhni, tu toh mala re japile Ghanshyam ni (2)**

ખાલી આવ્યા ખાલી જશું, સાથે શું લાવ્યા લઈ જશું (૨)

જીવન ધન્ય રે બનાવો ભક્તિ ભાવથી, તું તો માળા રે જપી લે ઘનશ્યામની તારી ..૧

**Khali aavya khali jasu, saathe shuu lavya layi jashu, (2)**

**Jeevan dhanya re banavo bhakti bhav thi,**

**tu toh mala re japile Ghanshyam ni**

**Tari ..1**

જુઠા જગના જુઠા ખેલ (૨) મનવા મારુ તારુ મેલ (૨)

તું તો છોડી દેને ચિંતા આખા ગામની, તું તો માળા રે જપી લે ઘનશ્યામની તારી ..૨

**Jootha jagna jhoota khel, manva maru taru mel, (2)**

**Tu toh chodidene chinta aakha gaamni,**

**tu toh mala re japile Ghanshyam ni**

**Tari ..2**

મારા મનડાના મોર (૨) મારા ચીતડાના ચોર (૨)

મેતો મુર્તિ જોઈ મનોહર માવની, તું તો માળા રે જપી લે ઘનશ્યામની તારી ..૩

**Mara manda na mor, mara chittda na chor, (2)**

**Meh to murti joyi manohar mavni,**

**tu toh mala re japile Ghanshyam ni**

**Tari ..3**

હૈયે લાગી તાલા વેલી (૨) આંખે આંસુડાની હેલી

ભક્તો ચેતીને ચાલોને જગના માર્ગથી, તું તો માળા રે જપી લે ઘનશ્યામની તારી ..૪

**Haiye lagi tala veli, aankhe ansuda ni heli, (2)**

**Bhakto cheti ne chalo ne jag na margthi,**

**to toh mala re japile Ghanshyam ni**

**Tari ..4**

ભક્તિ ખાંડા કેરી ઢાલ (૨) નેથી ઉત્તરવું ભવપાર (૨)

સુખે જાવું હોય અક્ષરધામમાં , તું તો માળા રે જપી લે ઘનશ્યામની તારી ..૫

**Bhakti khanda kerī dhaal, tethi utarvu bhavpar, (2)**

**Sukhe jaavu hoye Akshardham ma**

**tuto toh mala re japile Ghanshyam ni**

**Tari ..4**

## તારી મુર્તિ લાગે છે મુને પ્યારી રે - Tari murti laage chhe mane pyari re

તારી મુર્તિ લાગે છે મુને પ્યારી રે, શ્રી ઘનશ્યામ હરિ,  
રૂડી ચાલ જગતથી ન્યારી રે, શ્રી ઘનશ્યામ હરિ

તારી..૧

**Taari murti laage chhe mune pyari re, Shree Ghanshyam Hari,  
Rudi chaal jagat thi nyaari re, Shree Ghanshyam Hari**

**Taari ..1**

ઉંડી નાભી છે ગોળ ગંભીર રે, શ્રી ઘનશ્યામ હરિ,  
રૂડા લાગો છો શ્યામ શરીર રે, શ્રી ઘનશ્યામ હરિ

તારી ..૨

**Undi naabhi chhe goad gambhir re, Shree Ghanshyam Hari  
Ruda laago chho Shyam Sharir re, Shree Ghanshyam Hari**

**Taari ..2**

તારી છાતી ઉપડતી શ્યામ રે, શ્રી ઘનશ્યામ હરિ,  
છે જો લક્ષ્મી કેરું ધામ રે, શ્રી ઘનશ્યામ હરિ

તારી ..૩

**Taari chaati upadthi Shyam re, Shree Ghanshyam Hari  
Chhe jo Laxmi keru dhaam re, Shree Ghanshyam Hari**

**Taari ..3**

તારા મુખની શોભા જોઈ રે, શ્રી ઘનશ્યામ હરિ,  
રાખુ અંતરમાંહી પ્રોહી રે, શ્રી ઘનશ્યામ હરિ

તારી ..૪

**Taara mukh ni shobha joyi re, Shree Ghanshyam Hari  
Raakhu antar ma hi prohi re, Shree Ghanshyam Hari**

**Taari ..4**

તારા નેણા કમળ પર વારી રે, શ્રી ઘનશ્યામ હરી,  
મંજુકેશાનંદ બલિહારી રે, શ્રી ઘનશ્યામ હરી

તારી ..૫

**Taara nena kamal par vaari re, Shree Ghanshyam Hari  
Manjukeshanand bali haari re, Shree Ghanshyam Hari**

**Taari ..5**





## હરિ બિન કોઈ ન તેરા- Hari bina koi na tera

હરિ બિન કોઈ ન તેરા સમજ નર, હરિ બિન કોઈ ન તેરા રે  
ચાર દિનકી ચાંદની બીતે, (ર) આગે બહોત અંધેરા

સમજ..૧

**Hari bina koi na tera samaj nar, Hari bin koi na tera re  
Char din ki chandni beete, (2) aage bahot andhera**

Samaj..1

મનુષ્ય દેહ દયા કરી દીનો, તાતે છેત સવેરા રે  
અબકો અવસર ભૂલ જાયેગો, (ર) સહેગા દુઃખ ઘનેરા

સમજ..૨

**Manushya deha daya kari diino, tatte chhet savera re  
Abko avsar bhul jayego, (2) sahega dukh ghanera re**

Samaj ..2

ભારત ખંડ મધ્યે જન્મ દિયો હૈ, જહાં પ્રભુ પ્રગટ બસેરા રે  
નરનારાયણ નામ રટણ કરી, (ર) પાર કરો ભવ ફેરા

સમજ..૩

**Bharat khand madhye janma diyo he, jaha pragat prabhu basera re  
NarNarayan naam rattan kari, (2) par karo bhav phera**

Samaj ..3

કામ ક્રોધ મદ લોભ માન તજી, હો સંતનકા ચેલા રે  
મુક્તાનંદ કહે મહાસુખ પાવે, માન બચન દઢ મેરા

સમજ..૪

**Kaam krodha lobh maan taji, ho santanka chela re  
Muktanand kahe mahasukh pave, maan bachan dadh mera**

Samaj ..4



## FESTIVALS



### Diwali

We celebrate Diwali over several days in the Asho month (Oct or Nov). One of the reasons we celebrate is to mark the occasion of Lord Rama coming back from the forest after 14 years in exile. It is also beginning of New Year for Hindus. We celebrate by decorating homes and temples, lighting lamps and fireworks. Families get together and exchange presents. We worship Lord Hanuman, Goddess Laxmiji and on Annakut day we offer a variety of food to God.



### Holi

We celebrate Holi in the month of Falgun (March/April) on sud Purnima. Also on this day Holika was burnt to death when she tried to kill Prahlad a devotee of Vishnu on her brother Hiranyakashipu's request. We celebrate by burning an effigy of holika, offering grains and hurling colour powder and water at each other. We celebrate the birth of Nar Narayandev the next day.



### Ramnavami/Swaminarayan Jayanti

On Chaitra Sud navmi we celebrate Ramnavami. It is the day when Lord Rama (7<sup>th</sup> incarnation of Lord Vishnu) was born. Lord Swaminarayan was also born on Ramnavami. We celebrate by observing a fast, remembering God, swinging bal Ghanshyam in a cradle (paranyu) and singing "Dharma gher anand bhayo jai bolo Ghanshyam ki".



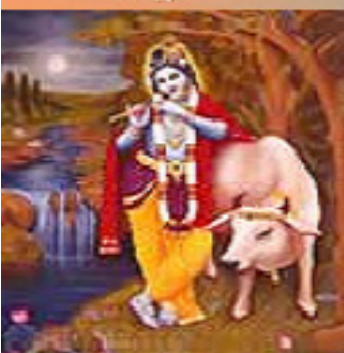
### Hindola

For one month between Ashada and Shravana (July & Aug) we swing God in a decorated Hindola to experience the divine joy of rocking the mighty God in small swing. Hindola are decorated using various things like flowers, fruit, dried fruit, rakhdhis.



### Rakshabandhan

Rakshabandhan falls on Poornima of Shravana month (August). Sisters tie a 'rakhadi' on her brother's right wrist, to protect him from evil influence or factors that may taint his character and to strengthen the bond of sibling love between them. In return the brother gives her a gift and vows to protect her too.

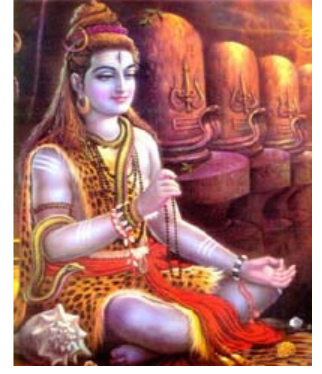


### Janmashtmi

On Shravan Vad aasthmi (August) we celebrate the birth of Lord Krishna (8<sup>th</sup> incarnation of Lord Vishnu). We celebrate by observing a fast. Listening and singing the divine glory of Lord Krishna and swinging bal Krishna in a cradle (paranyu) and singing "Nand gher anand bhayo, jai Kanhaiya lal ki"

## Shivratri

On Shivratri we celebrate the birth of Lord Shiva. At the beginning of the universe, Lord Shiva was born from the brows of Brahma. So, till the ultimate annihilation of the universe, Lord Shiva, like Brahma, remains in the same form. (There are no incarnations of Brahma and Lord Shiva). He is the third of holy trimurti and responsible for the destruction of the universe. He is also known by other names as Shankar, Mahadev, Rudra, Sadashiv, Bholanath etc.



## Vasant Panchmi/Shikshapatri Jayanti

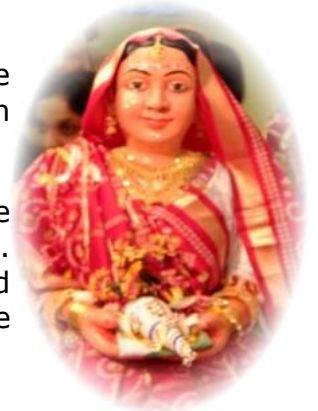
Vasant Panchami is celebrated on Maha sud Pancham. It heralds the start of Vasant (Spring) season. The trees start new growth after the lull of winter. Hibernating animals make their way out of their holes back to the ground. On this day in V.S. 1882, Lord Swaminarayan had written the Shikshapatri. In all our temples we recite Shikshapatri and offer prayers to it. This day reminds us to observe all orders of Shikshapatri. Lord Swaminarayan has said in verse 207 that persons who do not obey Shikshapatri in full are not His true devotees.



## Tulsi Viwah

Tulsi Viwah is an annual celebrated in month of Kartik starting on the first ekadashi after Diwali. It is celebration of marriage of Lord Narayan to Tulsi. The story behind Tulsi Viwah is as follows:

Vrunda was daughter of King Kushdhavaj. From a very young age she renounced material wealth and had wanted to marry Bhagwan Narayan. After praying for many years, Lord Brahma gave her darshan and granted her wish. But because of a curse, Brahma told Vrunda that she would first have to marry the demon Jalandhar, son of Sagar (ocean).



Vrunda was born as Tulsi and married Jalandhar. Tulsi became a very devoted wife (Pativrata). Tulsi's devotion to Jalandhar was so strong that it became like a protective armour which protected him from all harm. Jalandhar fought many battles with Indra and other devtas and won them all. He decided to fight with Lord Shiva. Jalandhar emerged victorious over so Lord Shiva sought Lord Vishnu's help.

Lord Vishnu explained to Lord Shiva that Jalandhar's protective armour was Tulsi's devotion. Lord Vishnu gave Lord Shiva a trishul that would kill Jalandhar if his armour was taken off. Then to remove Jalandhar's protective armour Lord Vishnu appeared before Tulsi in the form of Jalandhar. Tulsi did not realise that it was Lord Vishnu in her husband's disguise and served him like she served her husband and because of this Jalandhar was left unprotected. Lord Shiva threw the trishul at Jalandhar and killed him.

Tulsi later realised what had happened and confronted Lord Vishnu and only then did He reveal His true identity. Lord Vishnu told Tulsi to leave her earthly body and go with Him to live as His wife. He said her present body will form a holy river called Gandaki and her hair will become the plant Tulsi, which will be used in the pooja to Gods. One who has a Tulsi leaf in their mouth at the time of death shall be released from all sins. Those who wear a rosary made from Tulsi beads shall get abode from the Gods. Lord Vishnu said He would become a Shaligram (the stone form of Vishnu) and will stay on the banks of the Gandaki River. To this day, pieces of the Shaligram stone can be found in the Gandaki River.



## **HANUMAN**

Lord Hanuman, the monkey god, is the son of the wind God Vayu. His mother was Anjani.

It was obvious from a young age that Hanuman was a celestial being. When he was young he was so fascinated by the appearance of the sun in the sky that he tried to go and catch it. The sun god, Surya Narayan Deva became afraid that Hanuman would cause a change in the nature of the world hence called for help from Indra, king of the heavenly planets. Indra appeared and struck Hanuman on the chin with his weapon, the Vajra.

Hanuman fell to the ground and died. Indra then realised whom he had killed and the Devas or demigods then bought him back to life giving him special powers, which he would then use to help Lord Rama in the battle against the demon Ravana.



He is a celibate Brahmin, and is learned in yoga, medicine and the Vedas.

Hanuman is the ever-present prime devotee of Lord Rama, and he was born to help Him fight against the forces of the demon Ravana. He is revered throughout Hinduism for his strength, courage, and ardent, selfless devotion to Lord Rama.

Lord Hanuman is the remover of evil spirits and seen in most Hindu temples. Hanumanji's birth is celebrated on Hanuman Jayanti day, which falls in month of Chaitra.



## **GANESH**

Ganesh is the son of Lord Shiva and goddess Parvati. When Lord Shiva left home for meditation, he left his wife Parvati behind. He sat in deep meditation for many years, but at home Parvati was depressed sitting alone at home.

To fill the missing companionship of Lord Shiva Parvati with the will of Lord Shiva created a son with the qualities of both parents. The child was called Ganesh. However, Lord Shiva was not aware of the fact that he had a son. When he returned home, he found himself barred from his own home by a boy claiming to be the son of Parvati. Ganesh had been told by Parvati not to let anyone into the house whilst she was bathing. Lord Shiva and Ganesh started arguing, which eventually ended with Lord Shiva chopping Ganesh's head off.

Lord Shiva told Parvati what he had done and realised that the boy was actually his son. In grief he ordered his servants to bring the head of the first living creature they saw, obeying Lord Shiva's commandment they returned with the head of an elephant. Taking the elephant head Lord Shiva placed it on the body of Ganesh and brought him back to life.

Parvati did not like the appearance of Ganesh with the elephant head and was annoyed with Lord Shiva. In remorse, Lord Shiva gave Ganesh blessings that he will be worshipped first in any ceremony undertaken from there on.

In the month of Bhadrapad we celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi, the day when Ganesh came back to life. We do Ganesh poojan before doing any ceremony.



## **RAMA**

Rama was 7<sup>th</sup> avatar of Lord Vishnu and had been born on the ninth day of the bright half of Chaitra month. We celebrate Lord Rama's birth on Ramanavmi, which is also the birthday of Lord Swaminarayan.

In Ayodhya lived a king named Dashratha. He had three queens and four sons; Rama borne by Kaushlya, Bharata by Kaikeyi, Lakshman and Shatrugna by Sumitra.

Dashratha chose Vashista Rushi to educate his four sons and Lord Rama had become a very skilled bowman. One day Sage Vishwamitra came to Dashratha and sought Rama's help to fight the demons who made it impossible to worship. Lord Rama pleased Vishwamitra by killing the demon Taraka who was bothering him.

King Janaka of Mithila had organised a Swayamvyar for his only daughter Sita who was incarnation of Lakshmi. Janaka had announced that whoever was able to lift and string Lord Shiva's bow could marry his daughter.



Viswamitra Rushi had come to Mithila with Lord Rama and Lakshman. All the kings and princes gathered had tried but failed to lift the bow and among them was Ravana the king of Lanka. Lord Rama not only lifted the bow but it broke into two pieces. Lord Rama and Sita were married with a lavish ceremony.

At Ayodhya, Dashratha announced that Rama be throned as a King after him and started preparation for his coronation. Before this could happen, Dashratha's favourite queen, Kaikeyi influenced by her maid Manthara asked him to fulfil his promise of two boons given to her a long time ago. First Kaikeyi asked Dashratha to coronate her son Bharata as king and secondly to send Rama to forest for fourteen years.

Dashratha was heartbroken but had to fulfill his promise. Hence Rama accompanied by Sita and Lakshmana left for the forest to fulfill his father's promise. King Dashratha died soon after Rama went to the forest. The curse given to him by Shravan's blind parents had come true. When Bharata came to know about all this, he asked Rama to come back, but Rama gently refused insisting that everyone should live a life of truth. Instead he gave him his sandals, which Bharata put on Ayodhya's throne in Lord Rama's place.

One day Ravana abducted Sita by trickery and took her to Lanka. On the way Jayatu a vulture tried to help free Sita but was wounded and lived only long enough to tell Rama what happened. Rama and Lakshman were searching for Sita when they met Hanuman who took them to Sugreeva. With help of Sugreeva whom Rama helped defeat Bali raised an army of monkeys. Hanuman was asked to find Sita so he flew over the ocean to Lanka, found Sita and he told her that Rama would come to rescue her. Ravana captured him and had his tail set on fire but he escaped and burnt Lanka.

With the help of Hanuman and the monkey army Lord Rama built a bridge of floating stones and crossed into Lanka. Lord Rama fought with Ravana for nine days (we celebrate these as **Navaratri**). On the tenth day Lord Rama killed Ravana (we celebrate this as **Vijyadashmi** or dusshera). After 14 years in exile Lord Rama returned to Ayodhya. To welcome him people of Ayodhya decorated the city and lit lamps. From that day on we celebrate this day as **Diwali**. On the next day Lord Rama was crowned King of Ayodhya and we celebrated this day as New Year.

Rama is recognised as the ideal son, husband, and king by all Hindus. He is Maryadapurushottam.



## **KRISHNA**

Krishna is the 8<sup>th</sup> Avatar of Lord Vishnu. He was born on the aasthanmi (8<sup>th</sup> day) of the waning moon in the month of Shravan in a city called Mathura.

A long time ago King Ugrasen ruled Mathura. He had a son, Kansa and a daughter Devaki. Kansa loved his sister very dearly. On the day of Devaki's wedding to Vasudev, Kansa acted as a charioteer of bridal carriage. On the way back from the wedding, Kansa heard the prophecy from the sky, "O Kansa! The eighth child of your sister will bring your death."

Kansa got scared and wanted to kill Devaki but Vasudev saved her by promising to Kansa that they would hand over all children born to them as soon as they were born. Kansa accepted Vasudev's promise and instead of killing Devaki he imprisoned her along with Vasudev.



Vasudev and Devaki kept their promise and handed to Kansa their seven children one after the other as soon as they were born. Kansa killed them all, he forgot one thing, that you cannot avoid death, everyone dies one day and that the prophecy cannot be untrue. When Devaki's eighth child was to be born Kansa became so afraid that he increased security around the prison in which Devaki and Vasudev were.

It was the evening of **aasthanmi of vad Shravan**; a very bright light appeared from the high window of the prison and seemed to fill the whole prison cell. In the midst of the light Devki and Vasudev saw Lord Vishnu who instructed Vasudev to take the baby about to be born to Nand Baba, the chief of village Gokul and bring back Nand Baba's daughter in exchange. The weather became stormy and it started raining heavily, the night sky was filled with lightning and thunder and when midnight came, Devaki gave birth to baby Krishna. With God's will the guards fell asleep, Vasudev's chains became loose and the gates of the prison opened. Vasudev took baby Krishna to Gokul as instructed by Lord Vishnu. As it was raining heavily Sheshnaag the thousand-hooded snake covered baby Krishna from the rain and the heavy flowing River Yamuna parted to give way to Vasudev.

Vasudev reached Nand Baba's house and explained to Nand about Lord Vishnu's instruction. Nand Baba understood and exchanged his daughter for Krishna. Vasudev then took the daughter to the prison and placed the baby in Devki's lap. The chains were back on as before and the guards woke up and heard the cry of the baby and informed Kansa. Kansa came running and tried to kill the baby girl but the baby flew upwards and said that she was an illusion and that the eighth son of Devaki had already been born and growing up elsewhere.

The next morning in Gokul baby Krishna was announced as the son of Nand and Yashoda although he had been born at Mathura to Vasudev and Devaki. Everyone was amazed at the beauty of Krishna and all wanted to play with him. Kansa however was worried and sent many demons to kill Krishna, but Krishna killed them all. Krishna grew up being naughty stealing butter and yoghurt from other's houses as well as his own. He used to take the cows for grazing with other cowherd boys and charm them with the music from his flute. Once He lifted the Govardhan Mountain on his little finger to protect the villagers of Gokul from the rain.

Kansa invited Krishna and Balarama (elder brother) to Mathura, where Kansa tried in so many ways to kill Krishna. In the end he decided to Kill Krishna himself but was instead killed by Krishna. Krishna then freed his birth parents Vasudev and Devaki from prison.

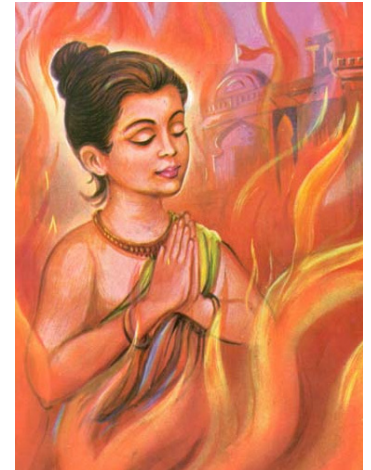
## **PRAHLAD**

In ancient times, there lived a tyrant demon king called Hiranyakashipu. Hiranyakashipu was against Lord Vishnu and his followers because Vishnu had killed his brother Hiranyaksha in his previous avatar as **Varaha**. Hiranyakashipu performed penance and pleased Brahma, who granted him a boon. He asked that he should not die on Earth or in space; in fire or water; neither during the day nor at night, neither inside nor outside, and not by the hand of a human nor animal. After that he became egoistic and ordered that no one in his kingdom should worship Vishnu or any other devas and those who did were tortured.



When Hiranyakashipu was away for the penance, Divine sage Narada preached about the sweetness in reciting Vishnu's name and his greatness to Hiranyakashipu's son, Prahlada when he is still in his mother's womb. Thus, Prahlada was born as a very devoted follower of Vishnu. He was totally unlike his father and he worshipped Bhagwan Vishnu. This infuriated his father who had forbid him from taking Vishnu's name. He warned Prahlad that if he did not stop taking Vishnu's name he would kill him.

But Prahlad did not stop. He was Vishnu's true devotee. This was too much for Hiranyakashipu so he tried to kill Prahlad. He tried many ways such as getting him trampled by an elephant, poisoning his food, throwing him over a mountain, and drowning him, each time Prahlad took Vishnu's name he survived. Then Hiranyakashipu called his sister, Holika. Holika was blessed by devas that no fire would be able to burn her. Prahlad was made to sit in the fire with Holika. To everyone's surprise Holika burnt and nothing happened to Prahlad. We celebrate the **Holi** festival in celebration



Hiranyakashipu was mad with anger. The king asked Prahlad, "Tell me is your Bhagwan present in this pillar?" Prahlad replied, "Bhagwan is everywhere. Yes, he is present in this pillar too." The king ordered, "Come on then embrace your Bhagwan in this pillar. I will see how he saves you now." As soon as Prahlad embraced the pillar a miracle happened. The pillar burst and Vishnu appeared in the form of Narsinh Bhagwan, half his body was of a man and the other half of a lion. Narsinh Bhagwan rushed at Hiranyakashipu, grabbed him and took him to the doorstep of the palace. It was dusk, neither day nor night. Narsinh Bhagwan was neither man nor an animal. He was neither in the house nor outside it. Now Hiranyakashipu's death had come. With his sharp claws Narsinh Bhagwan killed the tyrant.

Prahlad pleased Narsinh Bhagwan by touching his feet. He was granted a boon by Narsinh Bhagwan and therefore could ask for anything he wanted. Prahlad did not ask for anything for himself but asked that his father be forgiven for all his sins and be given a place in heaven. Narsinh Bhagwan granted him his wish.

**Today, we remember Prahlad for his true faith in God and forgiving nature**

## **SHRAVAN**

In ancient India, there once lived a sage named Shantanu and his wife. Both were very old and blind. They had a young son named Shravan. Shravan looked after his blind parents and took care of each and every wish they had.

Once his parents said to him, "Son, we are old and do not have much time to live. Before we die we wish to go on a pilgrimage to Bharat's holy places." Shravan agreed at once to fulfill their wish. He made a *kavad*, a special carrier, for his parents. He carried the *kavad* on his shoulder and they left on the pilgrimage. Shravan was so devoted to his parents that he did not feel their weight. A few months later, they reached the outskirts of Ayodhya, the holy birthplace of Shree Ramchandra Bhagwan.



Shravan's parents were very thirsty. Shravan put the *kavad* on the ground. He took a waterpot to fill at the river Saryu flowing nearby. As he bent down to fill his pot, an arrow pierced his chest. King Dashrath had hit him by accident. The king was in the forest hunting for a deer. In the fading light of the dusk he mistook Shravan for a deer because of the gurgling sound from the pot. As soon as the arrow hit him, Shravan cried out in agony. Dashrath realised his mistake and he ran to the young boy. Shravan was lying in a pool of blood. He was hit badly in the chest. Dashrath was immensely pained at the sight and asked

forgiveness.

Shravan told him, " My old parents, are very thirsty. Please take this water to them and quench their thirst." After saying this he died. Dashrath took the water to the blind couple. He told them about his mistake and about their dear son's accidental death. The parents were very sad to hear this and wished to be taken to Shravan. Dashrath carried the *kavad* and took them to the body. The old couple grieved at their son's death. Dashrath bowed at their feet and begged for forgiveness.

Shravan's Father said, "King, we do not want to curse you, as the power to curse is only in God's hands. But we can see your future. As we shall die shortly longing for our son, you too shall die longing for your son." Soon they died, longing for their dear son. The couple's words later turned out to be true for Dashrath. He too died, longing for his son Shree Rama.

**Today, we remember Shravan for his sincere service, duty and devotion to his parents.**



## **DHRUV**



Dhruv was the son of King Uttanpad. The king had two wives: Suruchi and Suniti. Suruchi had a son named Uttam and Suniti had two sons. Dhruv was Suniti's eldest son. Suruchi was the king's favourite queen. Whilst the king loved her and her son Uttam, he ignored Suniti and her son. On day Uttam sat on his father's lap. Dhruv too tried to sit beside his stepbrother. Seeing this Suruchi shouted to him, "You cannot sit there. If you want to sit in the king's lap you shall have to prove your worthiness and undergo serious penance."

Dhruv could not bear the insult so he started crying and went to his mother Suniti for comfort. His mother soothed him and said that God is our father and if we please him then we can have whatever we desire. Dhruv was comforted by his mother's words, he stopped crying and decided to go to the forest and please Bhagwan Vishnu by praying to Him.

On the way he met Naradji, who tried to stop him. "You are just a small child. The forest is full of dangerous animals. How will you bear the winter's cold and the summer heat? Go back home," he said. Dhruv replied, "O learned sage! Even at the cost of my life and all the rigours of the forest, I will prove myself worthy to sit in the lap of the king, my father, by undergoing great Penance and pleasing God." Penance means to fast, to meditate and to live a very simple life. Naradji was pleased with Dhruv's dedication and fearlessness and he showed him the place and the method to practice penance.

Then Dhruv reached a place in the forest called Madhuvan. He stood on one leg and started praying to God. Dhruv was so absorbed in his penance that the difficulties of forest life did not affect him at all. He had only one goal - to please and to meet God. He prayed for more than five months, standing on one leg.

One day Bhagwan Vishnu was pleased with his devotion and He appeared before Dhruv. "I am pleased with your devotion, my child. Tell me, what do you wish?" Bhagwan Vishnu asked Dhruv.

"O God, I wish your blessings and love from my parents," Dhruv replied.

"All your wishes shall be fulfilled my child." Saying this he vanished.

Dhruv had achieved his goal. He had pleased God and had met Him. Now he returned to the kingdom. The king welcomed Dhruv with full honour and respect. Suruchi, too, hugged Dhruv and he became everybody's favourite.

Later, Dhruv was made the king and he served people with love and dedication.



**Dhruv is remembered by all for his strong determination. God graced him with an eternal status in the heavens. Even today we know him as the Dhruv star, the northern (pole) star.**

## **NACHIKETA**



There was a little boy named Nachiketa. He was the son of Udalak rishi. Udalak rishi once organized a yagna to please the deities. It was customary in those days to donate cows to Brahmins at the end of the yagna.

Udalak was a miser and he donated old and weak cows to the Brahmins. None of the cows yielded any milk. This disturbed Nachiketa. He asked his father about it, "Father, to who would you give me in charity?" This made his father very angry, but he decided not to say anything. When Nachiketa repeated the question, Udalak lost his temper and said, "I give you to Yama."

Yama is the king of Yamapuri (hell). Hearing this Nachiketa went to Yama's kingdom. It was his father's command. It would not be proper for him to disobey his father. 'I should fulfil his wish,' thought Nachiketa, even if it means leaving home.

However his father realized his mistake and tried to stop him but Nachiketa did not stop. He reached Yama's kingdom and was told by Yama's guards that Yama had gone out for three days. Nachiketa decided to wait at his doorstep until Yama returned. He waited for three days. No food, no water. Three fasts!

Yama returned on the fourth day and saw little Nachiketa at his doorstep. He felt pained for keeping a Brahmin waiting without welcoming him, without food and water. It was a sin not to welcome an atithi (guest) at the doorstep. He scolded his wife Yami for not welcoming him. Both rushed around the house to serve Nachiketa. One went to fetch water. The other brought a mat for him to sit on. Yama still did not feel completely satisfied in serving him so he told Nachiketa, "Dear child, I have offended you by keeping you waiting for three days. To wash my sin I request you to ask for three boons."

Nachiketa declared, "My first wish is, when I return home may my father welcome me lovingly. My second wish is to grant me the knowledge by which I can be worthy of living in the heavens. My third and last wish is to grant me Atmagnan (knowledge of the atma)."

Yama granted the first two boons immediately and tried to convince Nachiketa to give up his third wish. He offered him gold, pearls, coins, horses, elephants and even the happiness of Swarg (heaven) instead. "No, I do not wish for anything else," replied Nachiketa firmly.

Finally, Yama granted him the third boon too, and Nachiketa was enlightened with the knowledge of the atma.

### **Nachiketa inspires us to be**

- **kind to all creatures**
- **to respect one's parents**
- **to be strong willed to do something one has decided, even when we face difficulties and obstacles**
- **to seek for eternal happiness**

## **KRISHNA & SUDAMA**



Bhagwan Shree Krishna and Sudama a poor Brahmin boy studied at Sandipani Rushi's Ashram. They became close friends. After studies, Krishna became ruler of Dwarka and Sudama remained a poor Brahmin.

Sudama was so poor he did not have enough money to feed his family so one day Sudama's wife said, "Why don't you go and meet your old friend Krishna. He will certainly help you and we can live happily." Sudama was not happy to ask for Krishna's help but went because his wife insisted. His wife borrowed some beaten rice (powa) from a neighbour and tied them in a handkerchief and asked Sudama to give it Krishna as a gift.

On reaching Dwarka, the royal guard would not let Sudama enter the palace. They made fun of him because he was dressed in rags but claimed to be a friend of the King. One of the guards took pity on him and went to Krishna and told him of his friend's arrival.

On hearing Sudama's name Krishna left his throne and started running bare-footed to meet his dear old friend. The guards were convinced that what Sudama had said was true. Krishna embraced his old friend and took him to his palace.

Krishna made Sudama sit on a comfortable seat and began to wash his feet which were bleeding and full of thorns. Then Krishna took him to his own bedroom, made him lie on his couch and began to press his friend's tired feet.

After seeing the luxury Krishna lived in Sudama hesitated to give him the beaten rice (powa) and tried to hide the little parcel. Krishna said, "My sister must have sent me something. What is it?" Sudama reluctantly gave him the present he brought. Krishna began to eat the powa and commented how delicious they tasted. Rukmini, Krishna's wife who was standing by grabbed some and started eating it too. Each grain Krishna ate had resulted in getting rid of Sudama's poverty.



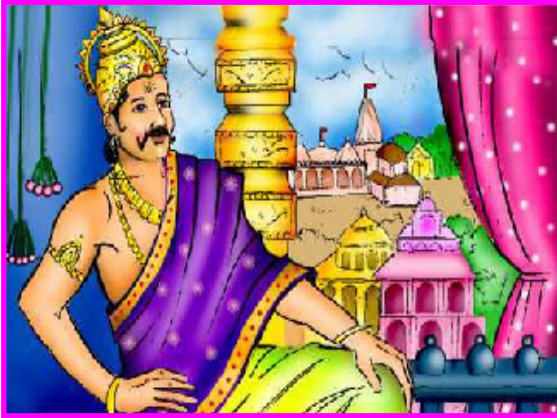
Soon it was time for Sudama to leave. He felt disappointed and on his way home was thinking, "My friend Krishna did not give me anything. My trip was a waste of time." But he was mistaken. As he neared his village and he saw a magnificent palace stood in place of his old hut. He thought he had made a mistake and only realised it was his home when his wife and children came out to meet him dressed in fine clothes and jewellery. All this had happened because of Krishna's love for his old friend.

### **Krishna & Sudama story teaches us**

- **God accepts whatever we offer him as long as it is given with love.**
- **God knows what is in our mind and fulfils all our wishes if we deserve them.**



## **RANTIDEV, THE KING**



There was a king named Rantidev. He was a very generous and kind. He treated all his citizens alike, be it old or young, rich or poor. The people too loved their king dearly. Rantidev was also very pious and a great devotee of God.

Once Indra, Yamraja and Lord Brahma had a dispute as to who was Lord Vishnu's greatest devotee. They asked Lord Vishnu and he replied, "Rantidev" so they decided to test Rantidev.

There was a great famine in Rantidev's Kingdom. There was a scarcity of water and food everywhere. People had nothing to eat or drink. All the rivers, lakes and wells had dried out. The people were suffering. The king decided to open his warehouses of food and distributed all the food he had to his people.

Eventually, there was no food left even for the king so he had to fast. He fasted for 48 continuous days. On the 48<sup>th</sup> Rantidev found some food and water.

The king sat down to eat and after saying the prayers, as he started to put the first morsel of food in his mouth there appeared at his door, a Brahmin. The Brahmin asked for something to eat so the king gave him half a share of his food.

The king started to eat again and there came a wanderer with his dogs and begged for food so the king gave him all the remaining food.

All he had now was water enough for one person. Just as he was about to drink the water, a poor old man came and begged for water. The king offered him the glass of water. Then there was nothing left for him to eat or drink. The king thought, "For me my guests are like God and I am happy that I have been able feed them."



The Brahmin, the poor man and the old man were none other than Brahma, Indra and Yamraja in disguise. Vishnu Bhagwan had been watching all that was happening and seeing Rantidev's sacrifice, appeared before him and told him to ask for a boon.

The king said "I do not want anything for myself but to end the suffering of all my people." Vishnu Bhagwan granted his wish. Soon there was rain in his kingdom and people were able to grow food and no one suffered from hunger anymore.

### **Rantidev story teaches us**

- **To be compassionate.**
- **To do deeds without a desire for fruits.**
- **Atithi Devo Bhava – Guest are equivalent to God**

## SHIKSHAPATRI

Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan wrote "Shikshapatri" on Maha Sud 5 (Vasant Panchami), Samvat 1882 (Monday, February 12, 1826 A.D.) in Vadtal.

There are 212 Shloks in Shikshapatri.



I meditate, in my heart, upon Lord Shree Krishna, on whose left stands Radhikaji, in whose heart resides Lakshmiji, and who plays with His Bhaktas in Vrindavan. (verse 1)

I, Sahajanand Swami, write this Shikshapatri, Gospel of Life Divine, whilst residing in Vadtal, for all my disciples who reside in different parts of the world. (Verse 2)

Rampratapji and Ichharamji, both born of Shree Dharmadev, are my brothers. Rampratapji's son AyodhyaPrasad, and Ichharamaji's son, Raghuvir, both of whom I have adopted as My sons and established them as the Acharyas (Heads) of My disciples. (Verse 3)

### FIRST ACHARYAS



**Acharya Shree  
Ayodhyaprasadj  
Maharaj**

Ahmedabad Gadi  
(Shree Nar Narayan  
dev)



**Acharya Shree  
Raghuvirji Maharaj**

Vadtal Gadi  
(Shree Laxmi Narayan  
dev)

### CURRENT ACHARYAS



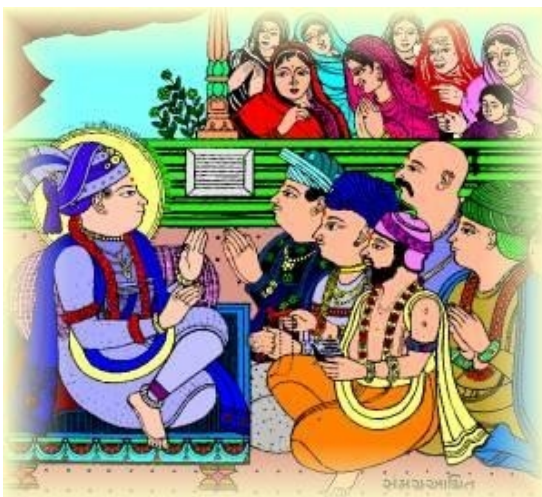
**Acharya Shree  
Koshalendraprasadj  
Maharaj**

Ahmedabad Gadi  
(Shree Nar Narayan  
dev)



**Acharya Shree  
Rakeshprasadj  
Maharaj**

Vadtal Gadi  
(Shree LaxmiNarayan dev)



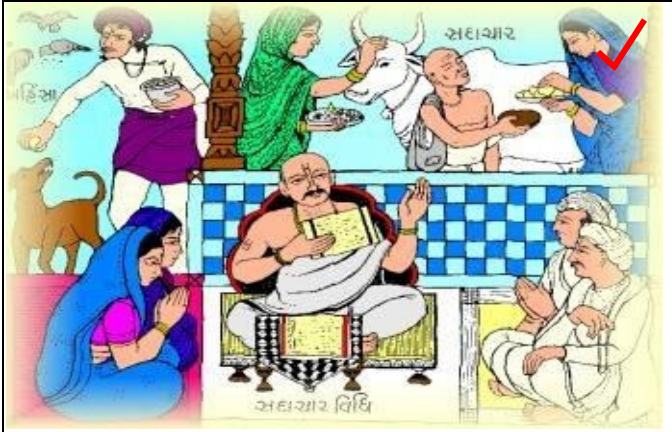
The Naishtik Brahmacharis (the Brahmin celibates) headed by Mukundananda; and the devoted householders such as Mayaram Bhatt, and others. (Verse 4)

And all my devotees such as married women and widows, all Sadhus, such as Muktananda and others, all who have become my disciples. (Verse 5)

May they all read and accept My ennobling blessings which are there to defend our religion prescribed by the happy remembrance of Shreeman Narayana. (Verse 6)

My disciples shall all concentrate on the benevolent aim of writing this Shikshapatri, and believe that it is written for the spiritual welfare of every soul. (Verse 7)



**SHIKSHAPATRI**

Those who observe the Rules of Ethics (such as non-violence and purity), as prescribed by the holy scriptures such as Shreemad Bhagwad Puran, etc; Shall derive happiness in this world as well as in the next. (Verse 8)



Those who violate the Rules of Ethics and behave wilfully are evil-minded and shall suffer great distress in this world as well as in the next. (Verse 9)



Hence, all My disciples shall love and follow the commandments of this Shikshapatri vigilantly, and shall never violate them. (Verse 10)



My disciples shall never intentionally kill any living creature, not even small insects such as lice or bugs. (Verse 11)



They shall never kill goats and or other living beings in sacrifices performed for the Yagna (propitiation) of deities and Pitris (ancestors), for non-violence is declared by all Shastras as the highest Dharma of all Dharmas. (Verse 12)



One shall never commit homicide, even in order to acquire women, wealth, political power or sovereignty. (Verse 13)



## SHIKSHAPATRI



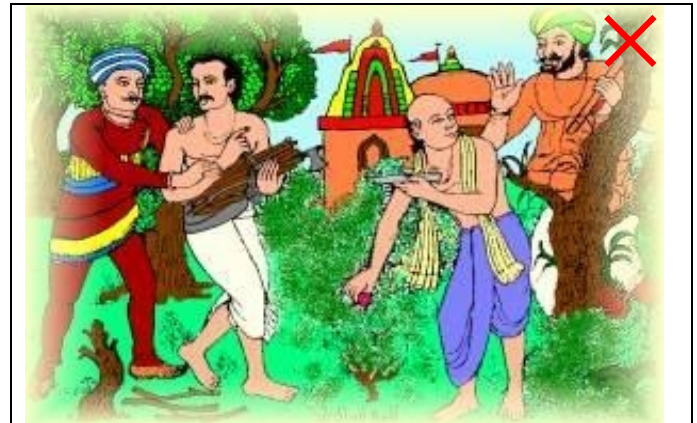
One shall never commit suicide, even in a place of pilgrimage, through anger or on account of untoward action, by taking poison or by strangulation or by jumping into a well or from a hill-top or by any other means. (Verse 14)



One shall never eat meat even in a moment of extreme necessity, be it remains of a sacrifice; nor drink liquor, wine or intoxicating beverages even though it may be an offering to a deity. (Verse 15)



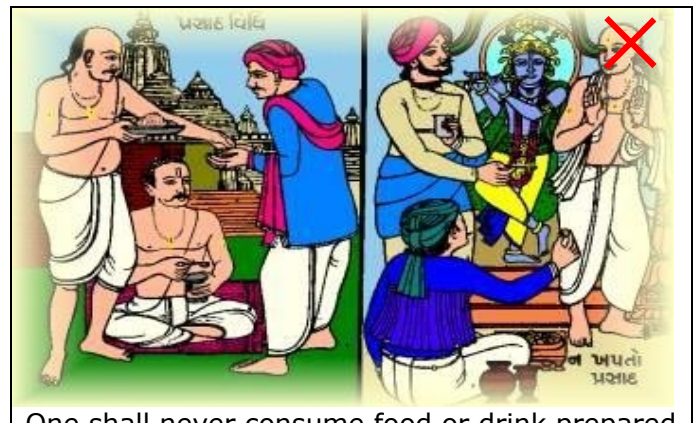
Even in the state of excitement, one shall never mutilate any part of one's body or that of others' with a weapon or by any other means, in order to punish oneself or others for any unworthy deed either by oneself or by others (Verse 16)



One shall not commit theft, even for the sake of performing an act of Dharma. No article, even firewood, flowers, etc. owned by others shall ever be taken without their permission. (Verse 17)

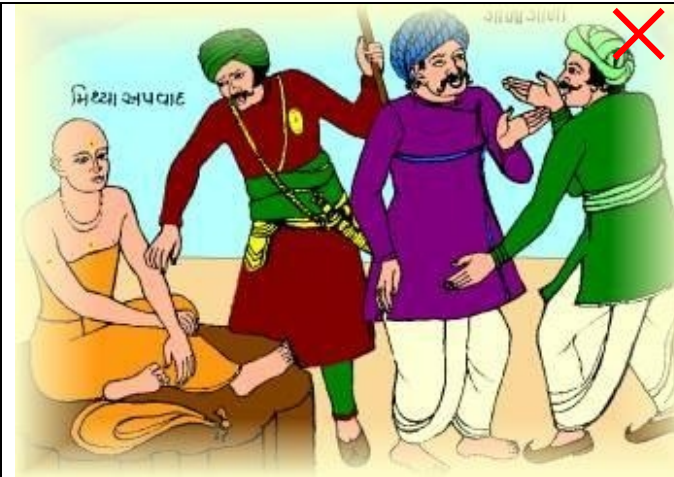


My male and female disciples shall never commit adultery nor indulge in gambling and similar vice. They shall abstain from inhaling and consuming substances such as bhang, tobacco, snuff and other intoxicants. (Verse 18)

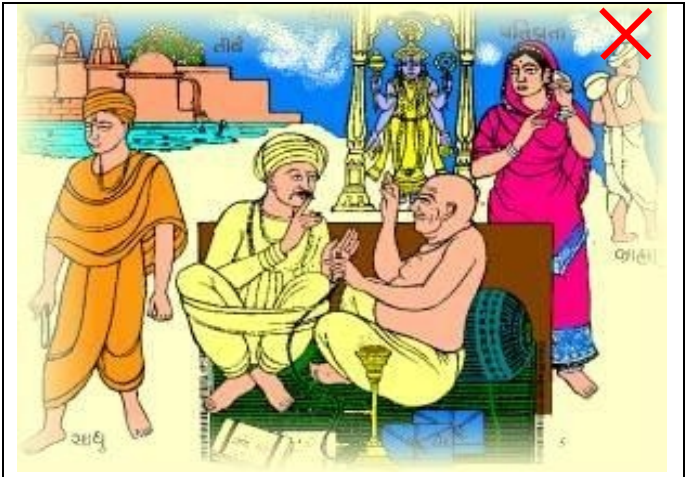


One shall never consume food or drink prepared by a person from whom one is prohibited to take such things by holy scriptures, at any place, even if it is the Prashad (sanctified food) from the offerings of Lord Shree Krishna, except the Prashad at Jagganathpuri (Verse 19)



**SHIKSHAPATRI**

One shall never make false accusations or abuse anyone using indecent and abusive words even if serves one's self-interest. (Verse 20)



One shall never slander deities, places of pilgrimage, Brahmins, devout wives, Sadhus or holy Scriptures nor listen to such slander. (Verse 21)



One shall never accept the remnant part of an offering made to any deity to whom wine and flesh are offered and before whom goats and such other animals are sacrificed. (Verse 22)



When passing by temples of Lord Shiva and other deities, one shall bow down and pay due reverence to the deities therein. (Verse 23)

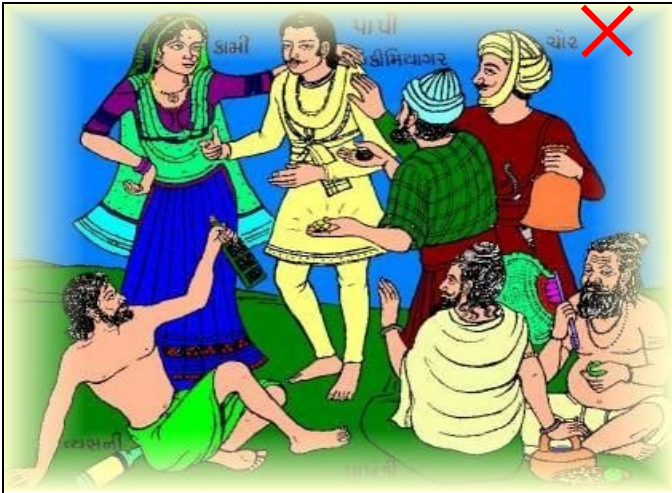


One shall never listen to any religious discourses from a person whose preaching might lead one away from the devotion to Lord Shree Krishna or one's Dharma. (Verse 25)



One shall never speak such truth, which might bring about harm or humiliation to oneself or others, nor keep company of ungrateful people, nor accept any bribes from anyone in social affairs. (Verse 26)



**SHIKSHAPATRI**

One shall never associate oneself with thieves, sinners, drug addicts, hypocrites, licentious (lustful) and other such deceitful persons. (Verse 27)



One shall never associate oneself with persons who, under the pretext of preaching religion or devotion to God, seek wealth, women or worldly pleasures, and commit sins. (Verse 28)



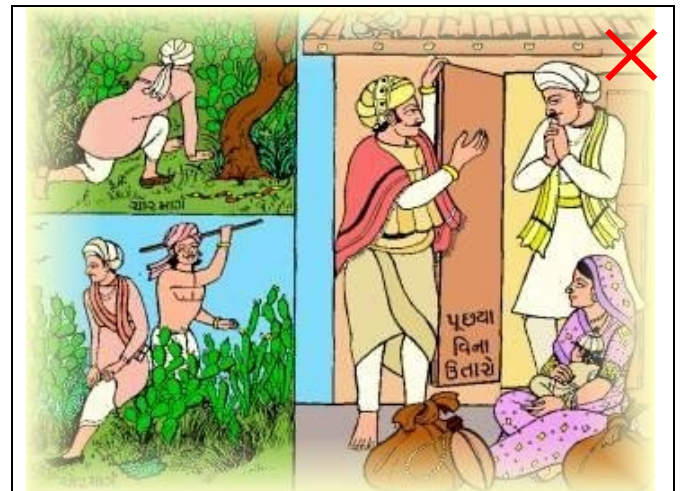
One shall never listen to or believe those scriptures in which Lord Shree Krishna and His incarnations have been skilfully and deceitfully denied or degraded. (Verse 29)



One shall never drink unfiltered water or milk, nor bathe with water, which contains many minute organisms. (Verse 30)



One shall never excrete, urinate or spit in dilapidated temples, banks of rivers or ponds, main roads, fields sown with seeds, shades of trees, orchards, gardens or similar places which have been prohibited by religious scriptures or by public body. (Verse 32)

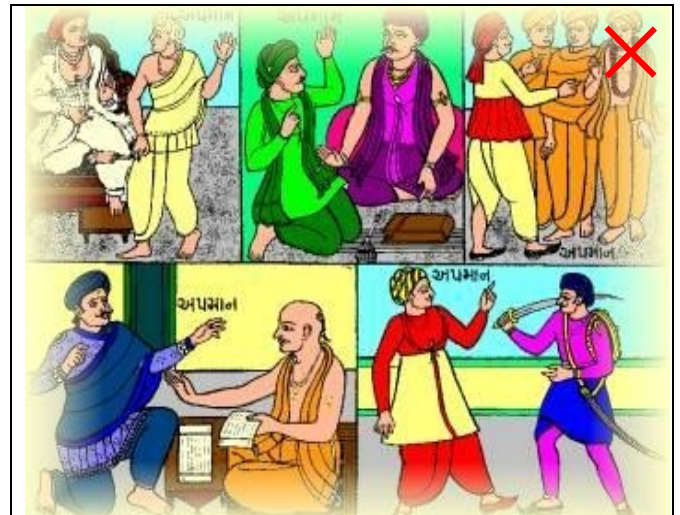


One shall never enter or exit through a secret way, and shall not occupy, even temporarily, any private property without the owner's permission. (Verse 33)



**SHIKSHAPATRI**

My male disciples shall never listen to religious discourses given by females, nor enter into arguments with females, rulers or their courtiers. (Verse 34)



One shall never insult a guru, or a person who is either great, dignified, learned or those armed with weapons. (Verse 35)



One shall never perform duties pertaining to social affairs without careful consideration, whereas duties pertaining to Dharma shall be performed immediately. Those who are learned shall impart their knowledge to others, and shall always associate with saintly persons. (Verse 36)



One shall never go empty handed to a Guru, a deity or a king. One shall never commit a breach of trust and shall never praise oneself. (Verse 37)



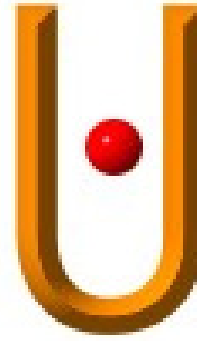
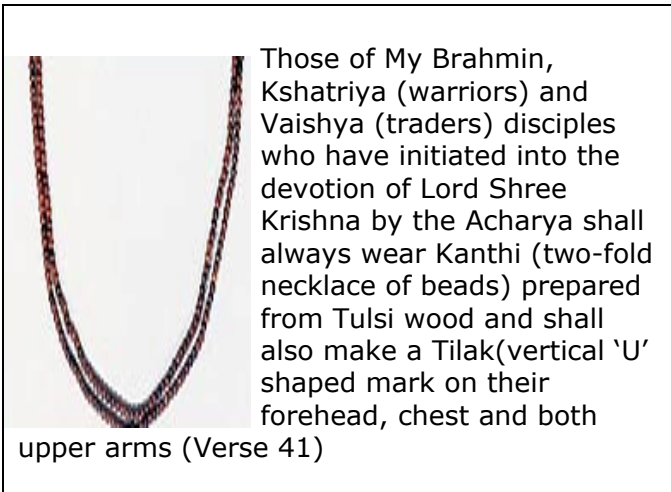
My disciples shall never wear clothes, which are likely to cause any indecent exposure of the body. (Verse 38)



One shall never practise devotion to Lord Shree Krishna without observance of ashram and shall never give up devotion to Lord Krishna for fear of criticism from ignorant persons. (Verse 39)



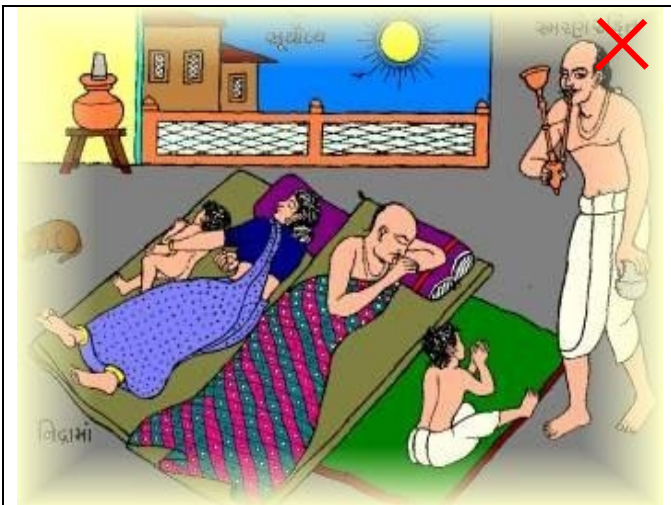
## SHIKSHAPATRI



The Tilak shall be made with either Gopichandan stick or with consecrated sandal paste mixed with kumkum (saffron or red powder) duly offered to Lord Shree Krishna (Verse 42)

In the centre of the Tilak, one shall make a Chandlo (round mark) of

Gopichandan or Kumkum which has been offered to Radhikaji or Laxmiji. (Verse 43)



All my disciples shall get up daily before sunrise, offer prayers to Lord Krishna, and then go to answer the call of nature. (verse 49)



All My disciples shall go to the temple everyday in the evening and there they shall sing loudly, songs in praise of Lord Shree Krishna (Verse 63)



A person should be addressed according to his status, taking into consideration the time and place, but not otherwise. (Verse 68)



My courteous disciples shall, on arrival of a guru, a ruler, a very old person, a person who has renounced the material world, a scholar and ascetic, accord a warm welcome by rising up from their seat, bowing down, offering a seat and saying pleasant words. (Verse 69)

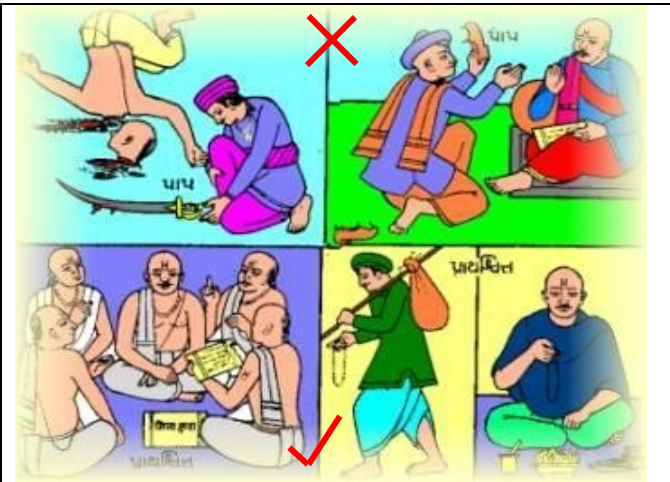


**SHIKSHAPATRI**

One shall never undertake any activity which is devoid of dharma, irrespective of its benefits, as Dharma alone can fulfil all human aspirations; therefore one shall not give up Dharma in hope of some benefit. (verse 73)



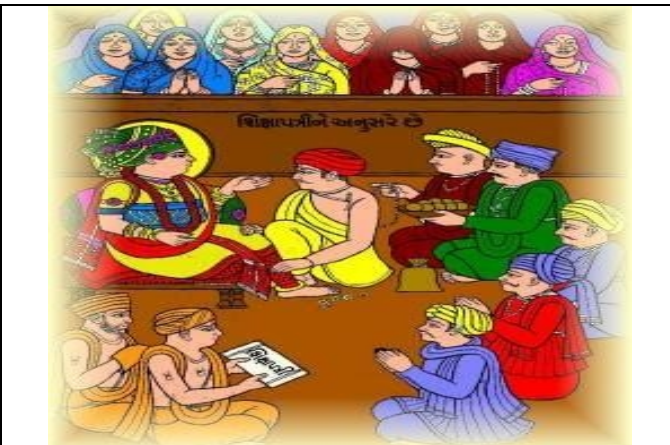
They shall observe self-discipline on Ekadashi, Janmasthmi and birth anniversaries of other deities (Shivratri, etc.); and celebrate them with great reverence and festivity. (Verse 79)



If my disciples have committed sins, small or big, knowingly or unknowingly, they shall expiate their sins according to their capacities. (Verse 92)



My disciples shall render lifelong services to their parents, guru and ailing persons according to their abilities (Verse 139)



I have written this Shikshapatri, taking the essence of all Shastras. It fulfils the wishes of my disciples. (Verse 204) Therefore all My disciples shall always observe the precepts of this Shikshapatri, but never behave as they desire. (Verse 205)



My disciples shall read this Shikshapatri daily, and those who cannot read, shall listen to it with reverence (Verse 208)





## LEARN THE ALPHABET THE HINDU WAY

Learn the following words and their meanings. Can you think of other religious words that start with the alphabetical letter shown? Write down as many as you can think together with their meaning. Ask your parents, grandparents or relatives to help.

A	Akshardham which is the divine heaven of Swaminarayan Bhagwan Aum the divine sound representing God
B	Bharat -- Sanskrit name for India the land filled with light and brilliance Bhakti – Devotion to God
C	Chhappaiya – the place of birth of Ghanshyam Charnarvind holy feet of God which carry 16 auspicious chihns
D	Diwali – the festival of lights Dandvat pranam – prostration at God's feet
E	Ekadashi the holy day for fasting, every 11 <sup>th</sup> day of each half of the lunar month Ekantik Bhakt – Someone wishes to please God more than anything else.
F	Fulhar – garland of flower Farari – food that we can eat on Ekadashi
G	Ganesh – the remover of all obstacles Guru – who leads us to God from darkness to light
H	Hindola – for swinging Shreeji Maharaj Hanuman – who protects us from all evil
I	Indra – The rain God Ishwar - Sanskrit word meaning God
J	Japa – Chanting of Swaminarayan mantra Jambu – A chih on Ghanshyam's right foot
K	Kanthi – Double fold tuls necklaces we wear as sign of refuge at Gods feet Krishna – Avatar of Vishnu. Killer of Kansa and narrator of Bhagvada Gita
L	Loj – place where Lord Swaminarayan as Nilkanth met Muktanand Swami Limdo – tree under which Lord Swaminarayan sometimes sat.
M	Mandir – home of God on earth Mala – which we use to chant Swaminarayan mantra on turning of each bead.
N	Neelkanth – teenage name of Lord Swaminarayan Niyam – Good rules by which we try to live
O	Ojas – Aura seen around God
P	Pooja – personal worship of God Poonam – Day of full moon
Q	Qush – Thin sharp blades of grass
R	Rakhadi – holy string tied on brother's wrist by a sister for protection Rama – Avatar of Vishnu. Killer of Ravana the evil king of Lanka
S	Shikshapatri – Scripture of ethics written by Lord Swaminarayan Swastika – Symbol of good luck, chih on Ghanshyam's right foot.
T	Tilak-Chandlo – Symbol of Swaminarayan faith worn on forehead by male devotees Trikon – Triangle shaped chih on Ghanshyam's left foot
U	Uddhva-rekha – Chih found on Ghanshyam's right foot Utsav – Festival. India is a land of festivals full of colour
V	Vachanamrut – Essence of Spiritual Knowledge revealed by Lord Swaminarayan Valmiki – Author of Ramayana
W	Wastupujan – ceremony done before we move in the house
X	Xhitij – Horizon
Y	Yagna – performed at fire pit in which grains are offered with prayer and mantras Yudhisthira – Eldest of the five Pandav brothers
Z	Zalar - The auspicious gongs played at the time of Aarti



## QUESTIONS

### About Ghanshyam

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| 1) What day, month and year was Ghanshyam born?     | Chaitra Sud Nom 1837   |
| 2) What is the name of Ghanshyam's mother?          | Bhaktimata             |
| 3) What is the name of Ghanshyam's father?          | Dharmadev              |
| 4) Ghanshyam had two brothers what are their names? | Rampratap and Ichharam |
| 5) Ghanshyam had lots of friends. Name two of them. | Veniram and Prayag     |
| 6) What is name of Ghanshyam's bhabhi               | Suvasini Bhabhi        |

### Prathna

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 7) What does "Twameva mata cha pita twameva" mean?    | You are my mother and father    |
| 8) What does "Twameva bandhu cha sakha twameva" mean? | You are my brother and friend   |
| 9) What does "Twameva Vidya Dravinam twameva" mean?   | You are my knowledge and wealth |
| 10) What does "Twameva Sarva mam deva deva mean?      | You are my everything           |

### About Aarti

- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 11) Who was the Guru of Shreeji Maharaj?        | Ramanand Swami                 |
| 12) Who sang the Aarti for the very first time? | Muktanand Swami                |
| 13) What happened before he sang the Aarti.     | See story on page 14           |
| 14) Sing the first line of Aarti                | Jay Sadaguru Swami Prabhu..... |

### About Thaal

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 15) When do we sing the Thaal                          | When we offer food to God |
| 16) What do we call food that has been offered to God? | Prashad                   |
| 17) Finish the line Beso Melya .....                   | bajothia dhari...         |
| 18) What should we do before we eat or drink anything? | Offer it to God           |

### About Pooja

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 19) When should we do the pooja?                      | Everyday in the morning             |
| 20) What should we do before we sit down to do pooja? | Have a bath, put on clean clothes   |
| 21) What things should we do as part of our pooja?    | Mala, pradikshna, read Shikshapatri |
| 22) What should we not do while doing the pooja?      | Talk, eat, watch telly, etc         |

### Murti in our temple – Mari Swaminarayan ni gadi

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 23) Which form of God is installed in the first section on left? | NarNarayan Dev                                  |
| 24) Which form of God is installed in the second section?        | Sahajanand Swami                                |
| 25) Which forms of Gods are installed in the third section?      | Radha Krishna Hari                              |
| 26) Which murti is in the middle part of the mandir?             | Ghanshyam Maharaj                               |
| 27) Which other murtis do we have in our temple?                 | Ganesh, Hanuman, Shiv Parvati, Suryanarayan Dev |

### About Ghanshyam's murti

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 28) What does Ghanshyam wear on his head?      | Mugath, paag, topi                 |
| 29) What looks really good on Ghanshyam's ear? | Kundals                            |
| 30) What does Ghanshyam wear around his neck?  | Phool mala, gold necklace          |
| 31) What are a Jamo and a Surwal?              | Jamo is top and Surwal is trousers |

32) On what part of the body Ghanshyam wear a kandoro? **On his waist**

About God and their different roles

- 33) What do Nar Narayan dev do for their devotees? **They do 'tapa' to alleviate our problems**
- 34) What four items do NarNarayan dev hold in their hand? **Kamal, Gada, Chakra and Sankh**
- 35) What does Sahajanand Swami do for us? **Gives us happiness**
- 36) What do Radha-Krishna teach us? **Upsana – how to worship God**
- 37) What does Ganesh do? **Takes all over troubles away**
- 38) What does Hanuman do for us? **Protects us from evil**
- 39) Which one of the following is true?
- a. There are many Gods **B**
- b. There is only one God but in many different forms with different names

In Nana Bal

- 40) We are all children of \_\_\_\_\_. **God**
- 41) What should we do when we make a mistake? **Accept our mistake and apologise**
- 42) We should wake up early in the morning and do what? **Have a bath and do pooja**
- 43) What sort of friends should we make and who should we stay away from? **Those who are polite, respect & care  
Those who are rude, lie, cheat & lazy**
- 44) What should we do while playing, eating and at all times? **Remember God at all times**
- 45) At home we should make a mandir and do what? **Aarti, danvat, thaal**

About Charnarvind

- 46) What does God always have on his feet? **Chihn**
- 47) How many chihn are there on Ghanshyam's Charnarvind? **Sixteen**
- 48) How many chihn on the right foot? Name at least four **Nine – Swastik, ankush, kamal, jav**
- 49) How many chihn on the left foot? Name at least four **Seven–matsya, trikon, kalash, gaupad**
- 50) Describe the shapes of the following chihn:  
Trikon, Vajra, Dhawaj, Kamal, Dhanushya, Matsya, Gaupad, Ardha-chandra **Triangle, sword, flag, lotus, bow  
fish, cowfoot print, half-moon**

About Ekadashi

- 51) Ekadashi falls on which day? **11<sup>th</sup> day of Shukla and on Vad paksh**
- 52) What should we do on Ekadashi and why? **Observe fast and remember God to control our senses**
- 53) What food items can we eat on Ekadashi? **Fruit & ekadashi food like samo**
- 54) What food items should we not eat on Ekadashi? **Wheat, beans, outside food**
- 55) What sort of activities should we do on Ekadashi day? **Read scriptures, sing kirtans, etc**

Festivals

- 56) What is Holi? **Day when Holika was killed & Prahlad saved**
- 57) How do we celebrate Holi? **Burn effigy of Holika, throwing colours**
- 58) What is Ramanavmi? **Birth day of Ram and Swaminarayan Bhagwan**
- 59) Why and how do we celebrate Ramnavmi? **Fasting, swinging Ghanshyam in paranyu**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 60) What is a hindola?                 | Decorated swing   |
| 61) Why do we celebrate Hindola utsav? | To experience the joy of rocking God on a swing                                 |
| 62) What can a hindolas be made from?  | Food grains, fruit, vegetables, money, toys, etc                                |
| 63) What is Rakshabandhan?             | Day when sisters tie rakhi on their brother's wrist                             |
| 64) Why do we celebrate Rakshabandhan? | Protect brothers from evil and to<br>Strengthen bond between brother and sister |
| 65) What is Janmashtmi?                | Birth day of Krishna  |
| 66) Hoe do we celebrate Janmashtmi?    | Fasting and swinging Bal Krishna in a paranyu                                   |
| 67) What is Diwali?                    | Festival of light   |
| 68) Why do we celebrate Diwali?        | Celebrate return of Rama, Sita and Lakshman from vanvaas.                       |
| 69) How do we celebrate Diwali?        | By lighting lamps, offering mountains of food to God                            |

### Ghanshyam Charitras

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 70) A meeting was taking place at Badrikashrama, who were present there?                | NarNarayan Dev, Dharmadev, Bhaktimata, Rushimunis                                   |
| 71) Who arrived later and cursed all those seated in Badrikashrama?                     | Durvasamuni   |
| 72) How did the curse become a boon?  | NarNarayan Dev were also to be born on earth and save everyone from suffering       |
| 73) When was Ghanshyam born and at which place?   | Chaitra Sud Nom 1837 in Chhappaiya  |
| 74) What did Bhaktimata see after Ghanshyam was born?                                   | Shree Krishna Bhagwan in midst of bright light                                      |
| 75) How did the people of Chhappaiya celebrate the birth of Ghanshyam?                  | Dancing & singing–Dharma gher anand bhayo..   |
| 76) Who sent the Krutiyas to kill Ghanshyam?  | Kalidatt  |
| 77) Where did the Krutiyas take Ghanshyam?  | To a mango orchard  |
| 78) Who saved Ghanshyam from the Krutiyas?  | Hanumanji   |
| 79) Which Krutiya started burning?  | Kotara  |
| 80) How did Ghanshyam play with the moon?   | He extended his hand into the sky and brought the moon into the house to play with. |
| 81) Which Rushi did Dharmadev ask to do the naming ceremony of Ghanshyam?               | Markandeya Muni   |
| 82) What four names did the Rushi give to Ghanshyam?                                    | Hari, Krishna, Harikrishna and Nilkanth   |
| 83) Which three things did Dharmadev and Bhaktimata put on the stool to test Ghanshyam? | A Sword, a gold coin and a Shastra (scripture)                                      |
| 84) Which item did Ghanshyam choose from three?   | A Shastra   |
| 85) While Bhaktimata was playing with Ghanshyam what did see in His mouth?              | The whole universe – sun, stars, moon   |
| 86) What happened when Ghanshyam held an empty glass under Gomati cow's udder?          | Gomati started to give lots of milk.  |
| 87) What did Ghanshyam get to eat instead of Khichdi                                    | Dudhpak and Puri  |
| 88) When Ghanshyam was ill with spots what did Laxmibai advise Bhaktimata to do?        | Not to bathe Ghanshyam for 20 days  |
| 89) What did Ghanshyam want to clear Spots?   | Have bath with cold water from the well   |



- 90) Ghanshyam was having his ears pierced while sitting on Bhaktimata's lap. What happened next?  
Ghanshyam disappeared from Bhaktimata's lap and was seen sitting on a tree.
- 91) What did Bhaktimata have to do so that Ghanshyam allowed to pierce his ears?  
Gave him some molasses (Gud) to eat
- 92) What did Kalidatta disguise as to kill Ghanshyam?  
As a little child
- 93) How did Kalidatta die?  
He was crushed to death by a falling tree
- 94) What was the name of barber who came to cut Ghanshyam's hair for the first time  
Zamai
- 95) Why did the barber stop cutting Ghanshyam's hair?  
He could not see Ghanshyam
- 96) What did Bhaktimata say to Ghanshyam so that He allowed the barber to finish cutting His hair?  
Bhaktimata said, "You wont look pretty with half your head shaved"
- 97) Why did Ghanshyam put the monkey in a trance?  
The monkey had taken food from His plate
- 98) Bhaktimata went to fetch water from well late at night .What did she when she looked in  
She saw lots of Ghosts
- 99) What did Ghanshyam do when he found out Bhaktimata had been troubled by Ghosts?  
Next day he jumped into the well. The Ghosts started burning and asked for forgiveness
- 100) Why did the wrestler Bhimsingh challenge Ghanshyam to wrestle with him  
He thought he was the strongest person and could defeat everyone
- 101) Who won the wrestling match?  
Ghanshyam
- 102) Ghanshyam was once hurt by a thorn. Where was He hurt  
The thorn pierced his right thigh
- 103) Who applied medicine and plaster on Ghanshyam's wound?  
Ashvinikumar the doctors of the Vedas
- 104) What is the lake where Ghanshyam was hurt now known as?  
Khampa Talavdi
- 105) Once, Ghanshyam went swimming with his friends. He saw a fisherman doing what?  
Fisherman was taking the fish out of the water and putting them in the basket to die
- 106) What did Ghanshyam decide to do on seeing the dying fishes?  
Bring the fish alive and make them jump back into the water
- 107) What did Ghanshyam do when the fisherman became angry and started shouting at him?  
Ghanshyam showed himself as Yamraja and the suffering of people who go to hell.
- 108) Dharmadev had a cow, what was its name?  
Gomati
- 109) Why did Suvasini Bhabhi decide to give Ghanshyam half a glass of milk?  
She felt Ghanshyam was a little boy and He did not need a full glass
- 110) Why did Gomati give only half the amount of milk than normal?  
Because Suvasini Bhabhi has given only half a glass of milk
- 111) Ghanshyam took Suvasini Bhabhi's ring without her permission. Why?  
Ghanshyam was really hungry and He wanted to buy some sweets but did not have money.
- 112) What did he use the ring for?  
To buy sweets
- 113) Everyone at home was looking for the ring. Who knew Ghanshyam had taken it  
Ichharam knew Ghanshyam had taken the ring
- 114) What happened when they went to get the ring back?  
All the dishes were full of sweets
- 115) What happened when thieves tried to steal jack fruits?  
They got stuck to the jackfruit tree
- 116) Who wanted to beat them for stealing?  
Rampratapbhai
- 117) What did Ghanshyam do to the thieves?  
He looked at the thieves with divine eyes and freed them, forgave them and gave them a jackfruit.

- 118) When Ghanshyam's teeth were hurting, whom did he tell? He told suvasini bhabhi
- 119) What did Suvasini Bhabhi make especially for Ghanshyam? She made some Shiro
- 120) What did Ghanshyam ask Suvasini Bhabhi to do to take away the pain in his teeth? Ghanshyam asked Suvasini Bhabhi to pull his teeth out.
- 121) Ghanshyam picked up all the teeth that had been pulled out and held them in his fist. What happened when he opened his fist? The swans from Mansarovar came and took away all the teeth
- 122) Before Ghanshyam left home he was returning from Rama temple and got into a fight with who and why? Wrestlers
- 123) To whom did the parents of wrestlers complain to about Ghanshyam? Rampratapbhai and Suvasini bhabhi
- 124) How old was Ghanshyam when he left home? 11 years, 3 months and 1 day
- 125) What name do we know Ghanshyam from the time he left home? Nilkanth
- 126) What things did Ghanshyam take with him when he left home? Kanthi, Mala, Kamundalu, waist cloth, cloth to filter water, Guthko, Shaligram
- 127) Ghanshyam was at the banks of which river when Kaushidatta pushed him? Saryu Ganga
- 128) How long did Ghanshyam travel for before ending his journey? 7 years, 1 month and 11 days
- 129) At which place did Ghanshyam end his journey? Loj

#### Other Stories

- 130) Who are Ganesh's parents? Shiva and Parvati
- 131) Why does Ganesh have a face like an elephant? Shiva had cut his head off and then replaced it with an elephant's head
- 132) What does Hanuman look like? Like a monkey
- 133) Who are Hanuman's parents? Anjani and vayu
- 134) When do we celebrate Krishna's birthday? On Janmasthmi
- 135) Who are Krishna's birth parents? Vasudev and Devaki
- 136) Who are Krishna's adopted parents? Yashoda and Nand
- 137) What is Krishna's place of birth? Mathura
- 138) At which place did he grow up? Gokul
- 139) What did Krishna like doing best? Eating makhan (cream)
- 140) What is the name of Krishna's uncle who tried to kill Him? Kansa
- 141) Who was Krishna's favourite gopi? Radha
- 142) When do we celebrate Lord Rama's birthday? Ramnavami
- 143) What are the names of Lord Rama's parents? Dashratha Raja and Kaushlya
- 144) Lord Rama had three brothers. What are their names? Lakshman, Bharat and Shatrugana
- 145) Why did Lord Rama have to go to the forest for 14 years? Rama's step mother Kaikeyi had asked Dashratha to send Rama to the forest
- 146) What was the name of Lord Rama's wife? Sita
- 147) Who had abducted Sita and taken her to Lanka? Ravana
- 148) Who helped Lord Rama to look for Sitaji? Hanumanji
- 149) Prahlad was a devotee of which God? Lord Vishnu

- 150) What did Prahlad ask for from Narsinh Bhagwan when given a boon To forgive his father Hiranyakashipu
- 151) Who was Shravan Kumar looking after His elderly parents
- 152) What happened when Shravan Kumar went to fetch water He was mistaken for an animal drinking water and hit by an arrow by Dashratha
- 153) Why did Dhruv want to find Lord Narayan So that he could be allowed to sit on his father's lap
- 154) Who did Dhruv meet on his way to the forest Naradmuni
- 155) What was the name of Krishna's best friend? Sudama
- 156) What did Sudama give Krishna as a present? Powa (beaten rice)
- 157) When Krishna heard Sudama had arrived at His palace what did he do? Krishna ran out to welcome him.
- 158) How did Krishna make Sudama comfortable? Krishna washed Sudama's bleeding feet and made him lie down on His own bed.
- 159) What was happening while Krishna ate the powa given to Him by Sudama? Sudama's poverty was being taken away.
- 160) What did Rantidev the King do when his people were starving? He gave away all the food in his own stores
- 161) When did Rantidev find something to eat? On the 48<sup>th</sup> day after fasting
- 162) Who came along to beg for food just as Rantidev began to eat? A Brahmin, a wanderer with dogs and an old man
- 163) What did Rantidev do when asked for food? He gave away his share of food and water until he had nothing left





અને સમર્થ એવા જે શ્રીકૃષ્ણ તે જેતે રાધિકાજીએ યુક્ત હોય ત્યારે રાધાકૃષ્ણ એવે નામે જાણવા અને રુકિમણીરૂપ જે લક્ષ્મી તેમણે યુક્ત હોય ત્યારે લક્ષ્મીનારાયણ એવે નામે જાણવા. અને એ શ્રીકૃષ્ણ જેતે અર્જુને યુક્ત હોય ત્યારે નરનારાયણ એવે નામે જાણવા અને વળી તે શ્રીકૃષ્ણ જેતે બળભદ્રાદિકને યોગે કરીને તે તે નામે કહેવાય છે એમ જાણવું. અને એ જે રાધાદિક ભક્ત તે જેતે ક્યારેક તો તે શ્રીકૃષ્ણ ભગવાનને પડખે હોય છે અને ક્યારેક તો અતિ સ્નેહે કરીને શ્રીકૃષ્ણ ભગવાનના અંગને વિષે રહે છે ત્યારે તો શ્રીકૃષ્ણ ભગવાન એકલા જ હોય એમ જાણવા. એ હેતુ માટે એ શ્રીકૃષ્ણ ભગવાનનાં જે સ્વરૂપ તેમને વિશે સર્વે પ્રકારે કરીને ભેદ ન જાણવો અને ચતુર્ભુજપણું અષ્ટભુજપણું સહસ્રભુજપણું ઇત્યાદિ જે ભેદ જણાય છે તે તો દ્વિભુજ એવા જે તે શ્રીકૃષ્ણ તેમની ઇચ્છાએ કરીને છે એમ જાણવું.  
(શિક્ષાપત્રી શ્લોક ૧૦૯ - ૧૧૨)





# પ્રાર્થના

## PRAYER

વિશ્વેશ છો સકળ વિશ્વ તજા વિધાતા  
 Vishvesh chho sakal vishva-tanaa vidhaata,  
 ત્રાતા તમે સકળ મંગલ શાંતિદાતા  
 Traata tame sakal mangal shaanti daata,  
 માટે તમારું કરુણાનિધિ સત્ય નામ  
 Maate tamaru karunaa nidhi satyanaama,  
 સાષ્ટાંગ નાથ તમને કરું હું પ્રણામ  
 Saashtaang nath tam-ne karu hu pranaama.

અજ્ઞાન પાશ કરુણા કરી કાપી નાખો  
 Agnaan paash karunaa kari kaapi nakho,  
 નિત્યે પ્રભુ તવ પદે મમ વૃત્તિ રાખો  
 Nitye prabhu tava pa-de mama vruti raakho,  
 ભક્તોનું પાલન કરો પ્રભુ સર્વથામ  
 Bhakto nu paalana karo prabhu sarva yaama,  
 સાષ્ટાંગ નાથ તમને કરું હું પ્રણામ  
 Saashtaang naath tame-ne karu hu pranaama.

ત્વમેવ માતા ચ પિતા ત્વમેવ  
 Tva-meva maataa cha pita tva-meva,  
 ત્વમેવ બંધુ શ્રી સખા ત્વમેવ  
 Tva-meva bandhu cha sakhaa tva-meva,  
 ત્વમેવ વિદ્યા દ્રવિણં ત્વમેવ  
 Tva-meva vidhyaa dravi-num tva-meva,  
 ત્વમેવ સર્વ મમ દેવદેવ  
 Tva-meva sarva mama deva deva.